



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Monday 22nd January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been made aware that, following the publication of the school's data from 2017, there are rumours amongst the parental community which we would like to address and offer reassurance against.

As you may, or may not, be aware the children at the end of Key Stage 2 sit End of Key Stage Tests more commonly known as SATs tests. These tests are used as a measure for the attainment and progress made by children across their time in Years 3-6. When this data is published, this is the only data that is shared and offers an indication as to the outcomes for those children at that time. In 2016/17, there were 19 children in the Year 6 cohort and as a relatively small school, each child carries a higher percentage weighting than those where the cohorts may be significantly larger. Being an inclusive school and accepting children with a variety of different needs, we admit children regardless of their prior attainment, and for the belief that we want to offer every child the opportunity to flourish and succeed. Where children may join the school with significant gaps, this does have the ability to impact on data but we choose to look beyond this and focus on the needs of the whole child.

All other aspects of the school's data, including Foundation Stage outcomes, Year 1 Phonic Screening Check data and End of Key Stage 1 outcomes are all extremely high and either in line with, or above, figures seen nationally in other schools. The publication of the data from last year's SATs data does not include any of this information.

We wanted to send you this letter to quell any rumours being circulated within the parent community. Some parents are discussing that the school faces risk of closure or becoming an academy. These are rumours and not based on any factual evidence. Following a recent monitoring visit, the Local Authority have confirmed that they have no concerns for the school and that the leadership and management are effective. They have also validated the projected outcomes for our pupils taking tests in Year 6. OFSTED, who undertook a rigorous and robust inspection last year, which included a thorough review of the attainment and progress of all pupils, graded the school Good in every area; they will not return for at least 3 years, unless there are several sets of data that show a decline in standards over time. The Governing Body of the school, along with the Senior Leadership Team, have validated that the school continues to be a good school.

Reflecting on the outcomes of 2017, we understand that the data is not indicative of the hard work and efforts of our pupils and there will, as always, be improvements that can be made to ensure that Teaching and Learning is as effective as possible. As a school, we have set out our School Development Plan priorities to ensure that pupils undertaking the End of Key Stage 2 tests in 2018 are as prepared as possible. In addition, the school has implemented a number of changes which will remedy any issues seen previously and we are very pleased with the impact we are already seeing.

Ancaster continues to thrive as a learning community. It is a hive of activity and a popular choice for children within the village and the surrounding areas. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and look forward to continue working with you, as a supportive parental community, to ensure your children receive the best education possible. We hope this letter serves as reassurance that your child attends an effective school however, should you have any questions regarding this, please see Mr Eden in the first instance as he will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the data.

Yours sincerely,

Sally McDowall

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the Governing Body)

Ancaster Church of England Primary School

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