




 **Chaucer Infant School**
Cantelupe Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 5LN

 0115 9325629

 <https://www.chaucer-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk>

 info@chaucer-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk

 @chaucerinfants1

Head of School

Daisy Dawley

Executive Head Teacher

Melanie Lawson



Dear Families of Chaucer Infant and Nursery School,

This is a caring and welcoming school where relationships are positive. Pupils are happy and safe.

We have now received the final report from Ofsted following our inspection on 25th and 26th September, which we share with you in this email.

Firstly, we want to celebrate our learners who were all Chaucer Champions. They were proud to show the inspectors our school, share their learning and views of their school experiences with our visitors. The inspectors spent a lot of the time with a wide selection of our learners, and their opinion was all like-minded— all children said they enjoyed school, that teachers want to support them in their learning and they feel safe. Pupils unanimously said that there was no bullying in school and that teachers supported them in friendships. Our parent voice reflected this, thank you to all of you who took the time to let Ofsted know your opinions of school.

We have lots to celebrate and know what we need to do next to further strengthen the education of our learners. We are proud of the journey our school has been on over the past 12 months, and that Ofsted recognised our drive for school improvement and what is positively possible for our learners during their visit.

When they fed back to us on **Quality of Education**, inspectors were keen to draw out a number of positives that are not fully reflected in the report. They acknowledged the strengths in our curriculum mapping and the accuracy and strategic focus of our evaluations and action plans for improvement. They celebrated the strong outcomes in some areas, including the Year 1 Phonics outcomes and Year 2 Reading. Children said they love to read and enjoy phonics lessons, inspectors recognised the strengths in our early reading teaching, and that there is evidence of good recall in maths lessons, particularly subitizing in Year 1. Leaders in early reading and maths have a clear plan on how to improve outcomes and it is having an impact. As always, we put our learners at the heart of everything we do. Inspectors recognised that *The school is ambitious for all pupils to achieve well.*

Inspectors were satisfied by the **Attitudes and Behaviour** of the majority of our students. They were pleased with the transitions they saw during the school day and how, during both lessons and play times, *“Many pupils play together happily. They enjoy social times and understand that respect is important for good friendships.”* The inspectors recognised our school ‘Bear’ values of Belong, Enjoy, Aim High and Respect and that *“Pupils understand how these values make the school a special place to learn.”* They told us we are a nurturing school where children feel loved and safe. We shared our strong family connections with inspectors, we are grateful for the support of our community. Ofsted celebrated our culture of inclusion – they said *inclusion is at the heart of our school.*

We were so pleased that the Ofsted inspectors recognised our passion and drive for a strong **Personal Development** curriculum for our learners and families. The inspectors praised the provision to ensure children are ready to learn, such as our Magic Breakfast, and how Assemblies taught children about life beyond school. The children shared the different responsibilities they have in our classrooms – *“Children enjoy having a job with responsibilities, such as being a fruit monitor.”* Inspectors were particularly pleased with the opportunities available to children in school to enhance their learning, such as sports opportunities and visitors



that come into school, as well as trips. *“Pupils’ learning experiences are enriched by purposeful visits, including to a toy museum and to places of worship.”*

A particular strength of **Leadership and Management** of the school that the inspectors referred to on several occasions during the inspection was the honesty and accuracy of our own assessment of the school’s strengths and areas for improvement. They were keen to stress how well we know our own school. They recognised we are a changing and new team, and the Senior Leadership Team are making choices to further strengthen the school. The lead inspector told us she could “see the green shoots of improvement but the tree had not yet had the time to bear fruit”. We know with further time and support from the Trust, school will continue to have many strengths to celebrate.

Inspectors highlighted these *areas which require improvement*

- improve the use of Assessment for Learning to address misconceptions and gaps in children’s learning and use these assessments to plan suitable next learning steps in the children’s learning.
- ensure the curriculum for pupils with SEND is suitably ambitious and effectively implemented, so that these pupils achieve well.
- ensure that staff manage pupils’ behaviour consistently so that pupils can learn without interruption.
- continue to build leadership capacity in school and ensure that curriculum leaders, have the knowledge, skills and support they need to carry out their roles effectively.

All of these areas for improvement had already been identified before the Ofsted inspection, and actions were underway to continue our journey to good. As part of their work, the inspectors reviewed a wide range of evidence and documentation including the School Improvement Plans, and Ofsted recognised these steps were already being made. The hard work that will lead the improvements necessary in school is happening. We have appointed new members of staff, including a new SENDCo to complement our current SEND leadership. We are working closely with the Trust to support staff in their development and welcoming coaching to support Assessment for Learning and Adaptive Teaching. Being part of Embark also allows us to access opportunities to share in good practise across our family of schools.

With the publication of the report, **now is the time to look forward and continue to improve and strengthen our school for our learners and ensure that the children of Chaucer Infants and Nursery School continue to receive the high quality education that they deserve in a safe environment where all children are supported to reach their potential.**

We know that you as parents will continue to support us with this.

Thank you



D Dawley
Head of School