8th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank all pupils, staff and parents for their continued support for Lostwithiel School this year and particularly during our recent Ofsted inspection. During the inspection on 1-2 May all pupils were a credit to the school and their community and inspectors were impressed with their positive attitudes and how well they could express themselves and talk about their learning and school. We are delighted that inspectors could see how much our children are enjoying school and their learning. All staff worked very hard during this inspection and demonstrated the total commitment and professionalism that we all have come to recognise as being a key feature of Lostwithiel School.

The inspection was a two day, intensive and thorough experience. Ofsted recognised many strengths of the school, however, its overall judgement was that the school currently ‘Requires Improvement’ in certain areas. These areas had already been identified by the headteacher and her leadership team and are being worked on. If the inspectors had visited six months hence we are confident that the inspectors would have seen enough evidence of the impact of all the new changes to be satisfied that the school is strongly good.

Whilst we are all disappointed that the inspectors focused on historic issues, we continue to be proud of our school, the learners, and their behaviour. We have worked hard in creating a strong vision for the school, with values shared by all stakeholders. As a parent I can honestly say that my children thrive at Lostwithiel School because of its wonderful staff, who are hardworking, dedicated and skilled in improving all children’s life chances. Lostwithiel School has in my children, engendered very high expectations, and they place their trust in the setting, as do we as parents, on a daily basis. In my time as a Governor over the last three years I am proud to have seen and supported the dramatic improvements which positively impact on the children’s experience on a daily basis. This view is supported by parental responses, which were overwhelmingly positive. Ofsted recognise that this is an improving school and that Leaders, including governors, had identified the right actions around the areas to improve.

The report states that ‘*Leaders, including governors and the trust, now demonstrate good capacity for future improvement…. The headteacher is ambitious for the school and holds a clear vision for its future direction. She is ably supported by an assistant headteacher and, collectively, they have a secure understanding of the school’s strengths, as well as the areas that require improvement.’* and‘*can demonstrate that their actions have led to key improvements in the school’*

The report also identifies that historic, weaker teaching has caused lower rates of progress in Key Stage 2 over time, particularly in mathematics. This has been an area for development for the school and will continue to be so, alongside the development of teaching, learning and assessment in the wider curriculum including computing, arts and humanities.

Inspectors noted the safe and positive environment facilitated by school leaders and teachers during the inspection. The pupils were a credit to our school; ‘*they were courteous, polite and well-mannered. They are proud of their school and of their community.’* We are delighted that Ofsted recognise that the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is ‘good.’

Governors are also delighted that the report identifies that our Early Years provision is ‘good’ and that ‘*children make good progress in developing their early reading, writing and mathematics skills.’* It also recognises *‘across key stage 1, pupils continue to make strong progress from their starting points at the end of Reception.’*

Our responsibility as governors will now be on ensuring that our clear targets for our improvement continue to be effectively implemented. As governors we will be working alongside the school and the Peninsula Learning Trust (PLT) leaders to ensure this happens.

You should have now received an electronic version of the report and it is also available on the school website <http://www.lostwithiel.cornwall.sch.uk> If you would prefer a printed copy, please let the office staff know.

If you have any questions about the report or the inspection, please do get in touch. Alternatively, Ms Simmonds and Mrs Webber are holding a parents steering committee meeting on Thursday 14th June where comments, questions or ideas can be raised.

Thank you for your support as we continue to work hard in our school improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

Dan Solly

Chair of Governors