

18th November 2012

Dear Parents

Ofsted Report

Please find attached the summary report from the Ofsted Inspection that took place on 11th and 12th October 2012. A copy of the full report can be found on our school website.

For the last few years Highlees has faced a number of challenges including;

- inconsistent leadership - five Headteachers in two years
- high turnover of staff - 13 new teaching staff
- Governing Body replaced by an Interim Executive Board

All of these factors have resulted in Highlees being very vulnerable. The Ofsted team confirmed the school's own self evaluation. Highlees Primary School was judged as requiring 'Special Measures' by Ofsted. Consistently poor performance at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 statutory assessments has contributed significantly to this judgement.

I understand that this judgement from Ofsted is a concern for all parents but I want to reassure you that the staff and governors are committed to improving the provision at Highlees. Since October, the school and Local Authority School Improvement Team have put together action plans to bring about rapid and sustained improvement and we are already beginning to see the benefits of this.

The Governing Body and I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have at a meeting on **Wednesday 19th December between 2.15pm – 2.55pm**. I acknowledge this is short notice but it is important that the festive events in school remain unaffected for the children.

Finally, I am confident that the Leadership Team and Governing Body have the skills, determination and commitment to bring about the rapid improvement that is required to improve pupil progress and attainment.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Emma Ward
Headteacher