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Dear parents and carers

Following our full Section 5 Inspection by Ofsted on 9th and 10th July 2024, we are pleased to be able to share the final report with you all and the outcome of this. Attached to this letter is a copy of the report, which can also be found on our school website and which will be published on the Ofsted website in five days. We are delighted to tell you that Ofsted have judged Pickering Community Infant and Nursery School to be a GOOD school. We are extremely pleased with this positive outcome which is a testament to the care and commitment of our staff, the support of our parents and carers, and of course, a celebration of our wonderful children.

We feel that the opening paragraph captures the essence of the 'Learning, Caring, Sharing' ethos that our school community is so proud of,

"Pupils are happy and safe at this welcoming and inclusive school. Staff build nurturing relationships with pupils... Staff help pupils to become resilient and confident learners. Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school."

The lead inspector's comments about the high expectations for all pupils reflect the dedication to learning that is shown across our staff team and the wider school community,

"The school is ambitious for all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities."

The report identified that there are areas for development and these were already part of our School Development Plan. There are three areas for development;

Early Years Curriculum – Ofsted acknowledged that work done on the curriculum with support from our Local Authority Early Years Advisor last academic year has meant that the knowledge and skills taught to the children through their adult led activities continue to be clear and result in children making good progress. They specifically commented how well children progress in phonics and reading. As we had already identified as a school, it is where children are involved in child-initiated play activities, that is the focus for development. This has been the focus for a small group of our staff team including our Early Years Leaders, over the last two terms. They have now delivered training to staff around this and look forward to working again with our Local Authority Early Years Advisor to continue the development of this area. Ofsted agreed that the development work already planned for this year is the most appropriate focus at this time and we are keen to continue the development in this area.

Reading – We are proud that end of Key Stage One results in reading remain well above national at both the Expected Standard and Greater Depth Standard. We continue to work

closely with the Yorkshire Endeavour English Hub where, again, Ofsted agreed that our planned next steps on our School Development Plan of focusing on developing a love of reading as well as ensuring even more of our children develop their fluency and a love of reading is the most appropriate focus at this time.

Wider Curriculum – Much work has been done on the development of our school curriculum across subject areas. As Ofsted identified, work on some areas is further along than others. We are already using the most developed areas of our curriculum as a model for other subjects to ensure that we create the very best curriculum offer for our children. We are delighted that Ofsted have recognised the strengths and the work that has been done so far and we are keen to build on this.

Thank you to every member of the school community who are working tirelessly to ensure that our school remains a great place for children to learn and develop. We will continue to build on our successes but know that Ofsted is only one aspect of how we measure this success – our true measure remains our children. The children remain at the heart of all we do, and the report recognises how important they are to us. We strive to help all children to develop as individuals, build on their strengths, recognise where they may find something tricky and help them to have the skills to move forward from this. We continue to value greatly the support from and work together with our families in making our school the very best that it can be for our children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Gillam
Head Teacher