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Dear Parents,

We are pleased to be able to finally share our Ofsted report with you. Apologies for the delay, but schools always have to wait for the report to go through a number of checking processes with Ofsted before we are able to release it.

The school has been graded as requires improvement which means that although we are providing an acceptable standard of education, we are not yet good in all areas of the Ofsted inspection criteria. Although we are aware that parents might be disappointed by this judgement, for us as a school, it was not a surprise as we had already identified things we needed to improve. We know that many of you had already noticed positive changes that have been happening in the school in the last term and we were pleased that this was also acknowledged by the inspection team.

The inspection team found the school to be a safe and happy place for children to learn and the children spoke positively about Buckfastleigh and their relationships with the staff. We were exceptionally proud of the children who told inspectors, "Respect and tolerance are what holds this school together."

The inspection team also commented upon the strength of our broad and balanced curriculum and how it developed the children's skills for the future. The children were noted to be particularly engaged during topic and creative lessons.

Our main areas for development had already been identified by the school and the inspectors agreed with these. The inspectors felt confident that if the school continued to improve at the pace they had seen during the inspection the school would move into a securely good position.

So what next?

We will be focussing on the following areas:

- Continuing to improve the standards of writing
- Raising expectations of what children are capable of both with their learning and behaviour
- Continuing to improve the attendance of children who are persistently absent (below 90%)
- Strengthening the governing body so that it has the full capacity to monitor and support school developments

We were overwhelmed by the positive support and feedback from the parents and the staff team really appreciated your support during the inspection. Inspections are a community effort and the strength of our school community was appreciated by inspectors and we would like to thank you all for that.

We would also like to thank Mrs Hillman who has already done a marvellous job in leading the school. The inspectors had confidence in her leadership abilities to continue to drive the school forward, as do we.

A full copy of the report is available on the school website or a paper copy can be obtained from the office.

If you wish to discuss anything further, please do contact Mrs Hillman or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Garland

Mrs Beverley Garland

Chair of Governors

