Dear Parents and Carers,

Dormansland is a GOOD School!

I am delighted to enclose a copy of our final report, following our recent inspection by the team from Ofsted.

We have been graded ‘Good’ in all five areas, leading to an overall effectiveness grade of ‘Good’. However, it was made clear during the inspection itself and in the wording of our report that we are well on the way towards an ‘Outstanding’ grade in many areas of our practice. In other words, this is a really good ‘Good’.

This is such a positive outcome for our school after what has been a turbulent time for the community in recent years. I am satisfied that we are now well on our way to delivering the kind of high quality, innovative education at Dormansland to which every child is entitled. There is still much to be done to ensure that we get everything right, but that’s part of the challenge and excitement that brings us all bouncing into work each day. My staff team are absolutely brilliant and I wouldn’t want to have achieved this with anyone else by my side.

We would not be where we are as a school without the special people who make it what it is. I am incredibly grateful to all those parents who took the time to complete the ParentView survey, contacted Ofsted via their dedicated text system or spoke to the inspectors during the visit. We were also made to feel extremely well pampered and looked after over the two days, thanks to the encouraging comments and smiles each morning from parents, by the good luck emails we received, by the array of staff treats we enjoyed and by the beautiful flowers that adorned our school. Thank you so much to everyone for thinking of us.

And, of course, I must mention your wonderful children, who deserve this outcome more than anyone else. If it wasn’t for their enthusiasm for their learning, their constant challenging and questioning and their ability to think of others before themselves, we would never have achieved this grade during our inspection. My extra special thanks have to go to them. You know how awesome I think you all are, and this shone through for the inspectors too, just as I knew it would.

Finally, please accept my apology if this letter seems rather gushing and not unlike an Oscar acceptance speech, but I haven’t stopped smiling since I received the report. I am so proud of our school community and hope you feel that this report is richly deserved.

With very best wishes for a wonderful weekend,

Sarah Stokes  
Head Teacher

Trevor Smeaton  
Chair of the Governing Body