



Kettleshulme St James CE (VA) Primary School

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Dear Kettleshulme Family,

When the spring term began, we didn't know we would be welcoming Ofsted through the school gates but in week two, once the weather and road conditions improved and school re-opened, we invited Claire and Ros (the inspection team) into school. Of course we gave them a warm welcome and felt excited to show them Team Kett in action.

We're delighted to let you know that Kettleshulme St James retained its "good" standard as result of the Ofsted inspection.

The inspection team were only in school for one day and so we didn't have the opportunity to show them everything that we do, but whilst with us, Claire and Ros spoke to the children, visited a sample of lessons, looked at children's work, met with staff, governors, and representatives from the Local Authority and the Diocese, as well as speaking to parents on the playground in the morning. They also found time to look in at breaktimes and lunch as well as Breakfast Club and Kett Club, before they said goodbye.

It was heartening that during their relatively short visit the inspection team saw so many of the things that we are proud of. We say on our website that we are "Small but Mighty" and we hope that the extracts below from Ofsted's Report highlights that: -

- *The school has high expectations for pupils' academic success*
- *Pupils are well prepared for their secondary phase of education by the end of Year 6*
- *Reading is at the heart of the school's curriculum. Staff are well trained and deliver the reading curriculum and phonics programme consistently well*
- *The support for pupils' personal development is a strength of the school*
- *Pupils are proud to belong to "Team Kett". They learn to appreciate their own uniqueness as well as celebrating each other's differences.*
- *They develop resilience and curiosity as they make effective use of the school's outdoor area*

You can access the full report on our school website – [click here](#)

What happens now?

The first thing we want to do is say thank you.

This afternoon in school we celebrated our report with all our wonderful children. We shared a PowerPoint with them which featured all of the wonderful things which the report says about them. We treated them to milkshakes, heart shaped marshmallows and biscuits. We could not have been prouder of the way in which our 'Kett Kids' interacted with our visitors and treated them with such kindness and respect.

A huge thank you to everyone (and there were a lot of you) who completed Ofsted's Parent View Survey. We appreciate you taking time out at short notice to provide valuable feedback either via the Survey or by separate e-mail.

To school staff, (and not forgetting our volunteers), you are all very special to us and your commitment to the children is beyond question. It's a joy to see this recognised by Ofsted, "Well Done". You each deserve a Proud Moment card; they aren't just for the children.

To our governors – what a brilliant team. Thank you for your commitment and endless reserves of time. We will continue to work together on our agreed priorities, which includes embedding the newer aspects of our curriculum. Governors will also be considering all the feedback received during the inspection process as we are determined to make sure Kettleshulme St James continues to succeed and has even more to celebrate in the future.

We are proud of who we are, our ambition for the school and what has been achieved. Over the past four years amongst other things, pupil numbers have nearly doubled and many more staff have been recruited to maintain a strong staff to pupil ratio. We have overseen an improvement in school finances allowing increased investment in resources for the children and the development of an ambitious, engaging skills-based curriculum including Adventure Days and Forest School. Safeguarding measures at school have been prioritised; only a few years ago there was no secure perimeter fencing or security gates and most recently we opened The Stream, our new sensory learning space to complement our learning nooks, The Greenhouse and The Nest.

However, at the heart of what happens in school every day is our School Vision, launched in 2022, after much work. Kettleshulme St James is *“A loving branch from which to soar”* and we work as a team to equip the children with the ability to be the best version of themselves before they leave us to follow their dreams. This is a golden thread that runs through our school.

Thank you once again to everyone in Team Kett for all the support you continue to give Kettleshulme St James.

Mrs Bellshaw

Headteacher

Annette Scott

Chair of Governors