



Head Teacher: Mrs E.S. McLean BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Pattishall CE Primary School
School Road
Pattishall
Northamptonshire
NN12 8NE

Keep in touch...

Telephone: 01327 830 301

Website: www.pattishallschool.co.uk

Email: pattishalloff@outlook.com

Twitter: @TeamPattishall

Facebook Page: @pattishallceprimaryschool

Facebook Group: Pattishall CE Primary Virtual Playground

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Dear families,

You will have had a chance to read and digest Mrs McLean's Parentmail about the recent Ofsted result.

I was fortunate enough to be present to witness the entire inspection across two days and I thought it would be interesting to share my thoughts.

Firstly, I must congratulate Mrs McLean and all of the staff for a most wonderful result. I have witnessed, first-hand, the incredibly positive feedback given by several external and independent experts on the strides forward made by the school against the backdrop of Covid and all the extra work this brought. Coupled with the fact that we are a small school, with one teacher per year (i.e. one person who must act as a teacher, leader and developer of many subjects and a "head of year"), the school's achievements should be viewed as being particularly remarkable.

Most importantly, what I witnessed during the inspection surprised me. As governors, we obviously spend a bit of time at school and we get to see your children in the classroom; however, I have never spent such a long period there in such circumstances – this is my first Ofsted inspection as a governor.

As a parent, I know you will want to know what I saw – I saw the children genuinely engaged in class, eating up the words of the TAs and the teachers – really looking up to them and enjoying their interactions. This was very natural, even my own children confessed they were told "to just act like they normally do in front of inspectors, nothing different".

In spite of the incredible stress of the circumstances, each of the staff members was wholeheartedly focussed on the children and on showing what "really happens" – most obvious was how much each staff member cared. They really do care about our children and they work so hard making everything happen to such a high standard.

I will never forget the experience and I am certain that the school, under Mrs McLean's direction, is going to move forward in leaps and bounds. Congratulations again to the entire school and its community for a great result.

Amanda Callear
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Be watchful. Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be courageous. And let everything you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

