



**Gladstone Primary
Academy**

19 May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Feedback Following Visit from Regional Schools Commissioner

A few weeks ago the school was visited by Mr Mike Phipps from the Regional Schools Commissioner's office – the body in charge of monitoring academies for the Department for Education in our region. His feedback was very positive and I wanted to share with you some of the key points from this visit.

Mr Phipps told us that he felt there was a clear sense of the school being under purposeful new leadership. He also told us that we have already addressed the areas of safeguarding that were highlighted in the school's last Ofsted inspection before it joined Thomas Deacon Education Trust. He told us that we have identified the right areas to improve and he liked our plans to introduce a new 'Read, Write, Inc' approach to phonics throughout the summer term.

Mr Phipps joined me for a walk around the school to see our classrooms in action and to speak to some of the children. He noted a number of positives. He said that many classrooms had particularly good quality, lively teaching and receptive learners. He also praised the way our teachers clearly marked the pupils work and explained how to improve. I was very pleased to hear that our pupils spoke confidently about their 'Learning Line' which helps them develop resilience and to progress when they are stuck.

Mr Phipps met with a group of Year 6 pupils who he described as 'friendly and articulate'. The pupils told him that the school is now better than it was and that they feel safer because there are clear school rules. They also told him that they believed that behaviour in the classroom was generally better and that they would recommend the school because teachers are strict, but encouraging and supportive.

Of course, we now need to make sure this is consistent across the whole school and that we continue to improve all areas of the school. However, I am delighted with the progress we are making and you should be very proud of the way your children approach their education. I hope that you agree that these are very positive comments.

Over time, and with your continued support, I am confident that this school can become the 'Good' school that the community deserves.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON MARTIN
Headteacher