

**October 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Dear Parents,

At the beginning of October 2017 Shorne School was inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The last time we had an Ofsted inspection was in 2012 when the school was judged to be 'Good'. I am pleased to tell you that Ofsted's judgement is that the school remains 'Good'.

I am sure that like me, you would like to congratulate the staff of the school, currently led by Tara Hewett, for this result, and for all the hard work they put into the care and education of your children. It is pleasing when their care and professionalism are also recognised by the national watchdog tasked by the Government to measure standards.

This result, coming on top of our achievement in this year's Key Stage 2 SATs as the 'most improved school' in the Gravesham area is commendable. The Ofsted report does point out some improvements that we can make, and I can assure you that the staff and governors are already addressing these. 'Good' is not good enough. When Ofsted visit again we want to be judged 'Outstanding'.

We have recently advertised for a permanent Head of School to replace Caroline Conroy (who was our headteacher until August this year). The beginning of the school year is the worst time to attract a reasonable field of candidates. That, and the knowledge that Ofsted was overdue resulted in a very limited field of applicants. Consequently we were unable to draw up a reasonable shortlist. We have now passed the resignation date that would enable us to appoint for January, so we are proposing to advertise again, with a view to appointing for Easter (teachers can only normally change jobs on three dates each year, in September, January and March/April). In the meantime Tara Hewett has agreed to continue as Interim Head of School, supported by Sue Tunnicliffe from the Aletheia Anglican Schools Trust, as Executive Headteacher.

We hope that you will continue to support the School as it strives to become even better.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Craig." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'I' and a distinct dot over the 'i'.

Ian Craig  
Chair of Governors  
Shorne Church of England Primary School