



### **When is outstanding not outstanding? Changes to Ofsted inspections explained**

Goring CE Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2014, when we were judged to be a 'good' school. A school judged to be good at its last inspection now normally receives a one-day **short inspection** approximately every three years. The purpose of a short inspection is to determine whether the school continues to provide a good or better standard of education and whether safeguarding is effective. Following a consultation, Ofsted has confirmed three potential outcomes of the short inspection from January 2018.

#### **1. A full two-day inspection will take place within two years where a good school is considered outstanding**

If, during a short inspection of a good school, inspectors judge the school to be close to outstanding, they will send a letter setting out the school's strengths and priorities. The school retains its 'good' rating until this second inspection.

#### **2. A 48-hour turnaround where concerns are raised**

If concerns are raised about safeguarding, behaviour or the quality of education, the inspection will be converted to a full two-day inspection, usually within 48 hours. Inspections will also be converted where evidence suggests that a school is likely to be judged as inadequate.

#### **3. A full two-day inspection within two years where a school is unlikely to reach its current judgement**

If, during a short inspection of a good school, inspectors are not confident that the school would receive its current grade if a full inspection were conducted, they will send a letter to the school setting out their strengths and priorities for improvement. A full inspection will then take place, typically within one to two years, but no later than five years since the school's previous full inspection. The short inspection's findings will not result in a change to the school's previous judgement for overall effectiveness. The premise of this new system is that it gives schools some time to improve where standards may be slipping.

### **What does all this mean for us?**

While we are rated a 'good' school, the staff and governors of course aspire to an outstanding rating. However, were Ofsted inspectors to visit tomorrow and consider us outstanding, we would retain our 'good' rating until the follow-up inspection takes place within one-to-two years' time. If the short inspection were to confirm that the school remains 'good', further short inspections can be expected at approximately three-year intervals.

Goring Primary School's 2014 Ofsted report is available on the school website. Ofsted's guidance leaflet for parents explaining inspections in more detail can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/676897/School\\_inspections\\_-\\_a\\_guide\\_for\\_parents.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/676897/School_inspections_-_a_guide_for_parents.pdf)

### **School feasibility study and Neighbourhood Plan update**

One outcome of the September 2017 Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on the issue of the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposal for a new school was the commissioning of a feasibility study to look at options regarding the current school site and buildings (see Governors' Newsletter Autumn 2017). This project, funded by the Parish Council and the Diocese of Oxford, was awarded to Oxford-based company Original Field of Architecture, and is well under way, with several meetings taking place throughout the spring term. The governors are looking forward to seeing and sharing the study's recommendations after the Easter holidays.

In the meantime ... discussions have continued with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group about amendments to the wording of the Plan prior to its imminent submission to South Oxfordshire District Council. The school is included in the Plan as a 'strategic project', which recognises the challenges school faces and raises the possibility of it receiving a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy generated through new housing. The Steering Group has taken on board feedback made on behalf of the school, and we are hopeful that the iteration of the Plan submitted to SODC will actively promote the school as a key element of Goring's community.

## The Goring 10k vs the Beast from the East

The governors would like to thank the 10k committee for all their efforts in preparing for the 10k, and for their professional handling of the regrettable yet unavoidable cancellation of the event due to the adverse weather leading up to the race. The work did not stop once the decision was made as many arrangements had to be put in place over the subsequent days to try and limit the financial impact. One of these tasks was to enable the runners to claim back their entry fees, and we are extremely grateful to the many would-be participants who chose to forgo their refunds.

We would also like to thank the loyal sponsors who continue to support the event, and the army of marshals who were on standby.

Obviously the cancellation of the 10k will have an impact on fundraising for the school this year, so please help us mitigate this by supporting the many other events that the PTA committee are working hard to organise. Here's to normal service being resumed in 2019!



The flapjacks (generously provided by Pierreponts Café) and bananas which were intended for the runners were sold after school by our enthusiastic helpers.



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## Help us make the most of our kitchen garden

The benefits of school gardens are well-documented. As well as enabling children to learn outdoors, they offer hands-on opportunities across a range of disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, maths and visual arts. Our kitchen garden is an amazing award-winning resource and is currently in the final stages of achieving the RHS Level 5 School Gardening Award. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of volunteer helpers, over the past two years our garden has become a central feature of school life:

- the children cook their own produce for sale at the summer fête;
- we participated in Goring Gap in Bloom and were filmed for a documentary;
- every child took part in the national 'Big Soup' event and raised funds for Unicef;
- the garden team are proud to work alongside the Eco-schools committee in ongoing projects we hope will help the school retain its Green Flag award.

Over the coming year we hope to participate in Goring Gap in Bloom once again; make the garden bloom and enjoy the produce; and, crucially, help the children learn some more healthy skills for life. However, in order to do this the garden team urgently need helpers.

**Can you ... help with a club on a weekly basis (morning, lunchtime or after school)? Help occasionally? Do some watering? Help with garden maintenance? Perhaps there are grandparents or other family members who can get involved?**

If you think you can help the children gain the most from this fantastic resource, please contact Sophia Cleverly via the school office ([office.3803@goring.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3803@goring.oxon.sch.uk)).

**If you have comments or feedback regarding any of the articles in this newsletter, please email the governors at [clerk@goring.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@goring.oxon.sch.uk)**