

From “Special Measures” to “Outstanding” in just 4 years



Sutton Benger Primary School near Chippenham is celebrating after being judged “Outstanding” by Ofsted.

The inspectors, who visited on May 20th, praised the dynamic leadership shown by Head teacher Suzanne Lloyd and Deputy Head Abby Rayner since they joined the school just after it was put into Special Measures in 2005: “The headteacher gives an exemplary lead and is well supported by senior colleagues and as a result pupils’ academic achievement and personal development are exceptionally good.”

Their report also highlights the outstanding quality of teaching and learning, the outstanding curriculum, outstanding achievement and standards and outstanding behaviour of all the pupils.

Ofsted recognises the “school’s excellent capacity to build on its considerable improvements into the future”

and Mrs Lloyd says the Staff and Governors are already working on exciting new curricular and extended schools ideas, including more after-school provision to complement the successful launch of the Early Birds Breakfast club.

Head teacher Suzanne Lloyd says “This is fantastic news for the whole school community as it places us amongst the most highly performing schools nationally. This is a huge achievement which is as a result of the hard work that has taken place in school over the last four years by a talented and dedicated team of staff; committed and supportive governors and parents; and most importantly of all, our 130 enthusiastic and motivated learners.”

Chair of Governors Rod Moor-Bardell says, “I am delighted the Inspectors have recognised the hard work of staff, pupils, parents, current and past governors. Congratulations are due to Suzanne Lloyd and her team who have brought the school so



far in just four years. I look forward to the school maintaining and developing on what is now a very strong foundation. The imagination, creativity and energy at the school is very evident and we can be proud of our children and their achievements.”

The school's vision statement is “Where hands create, hearts are cherished, thought is inspired and learning flourishes” and to celebrate the Ofsted report, a helicopter flew over the playing field and took aerial photos of the children making a symbol of a heart with hands around it. There was a “wow” factor for the pupils when the helicopter then landed to allow the pilots to conduct an outdoors assembly with them. 6 year old Josh Carr from Year 1 summed up the excitement by saying “this is the coolest thing that’s happened to me in my whole life.”

Parents and friends later joined staff, pupils and governors for a balloon release to celebrate the outstanding Ofsted.



The occasion will continue to be marked throughout the summer with a whole of school trip planned and an Evening of Celebration will take place at the school on 30th June to allow the community to reflect on the achievement.

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