

7 October 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED INSPECTION

The Ofsted call came on Tuesday last week and by 8:00am on Wednesday 2 October we had 3 inspectors in school for 2 whole days. They visited all our classes at least once and looked at other aspects of the school as well. Their main concern was with test and assessment results, especially from 2012-2013. The children and staff made a fantastic effort to support the school. Some of our pupils were interviewed: the Lead Inspector was full of praise for their articulate, enthusiastic and honest responses. Two governors were also present at various times to represent the governing body.

The full OFSTED report will be published to parents in approximately 4 weeks' time.

Thank you to everyone who made supportive comments during the inspection.

FIRE DRILLS

Your child might have told you that we had a few fire drills on Friday afternoon. This was due to a faulty circuit in a small part of the alarm system which is being repaired. The alarm still works in the meantime. Luckily, it wasn't raining and the inspectors had gone!

PUNCTUALITY

Registration is taken at 8:55am and lessons begin promptly. Please ensure that the children are at school in plenty of time. It is very disruptive to have pupils coming into class after the teaching has begun. (If you bring your child to Breakfast Club, please use the Hall entrance next to the kitchen).

JEWELLERY / UNIFORM

Hooped or dangly earrings **are not allowed** in school for health and safety reasons. Please replace them with a small stud earring.

Also it's great to see the children wearing the Howitt school uniform. This gives a sense of team spirit and looks very smart, too.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Each week, Mrs Clarke presents a large bear to the Juniors and an orang-utan to the Infants, for the classes with the highest level of attendance. These creatures (of the stuffed variety) wear the Howitt school uniform and join the winning class for the week.

TEAM POINTS

Our efficient Year 6 monitors collect and calculate the team points each week. Every child can contribute to the total earned by showing good manners in school, being kind and trying hard. At the moment, Haddon team are in the lead. Competition is fierce and the contest has only just begun.

Please note that our Year Group Newsletters can be seen on the school website.

Pam Purdon
Headteacher