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## PUBLICATION OF OFSTED REPORT

Dear Parents

The report from our inspection on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December is due to be published at the end of the week. There is a copy in your child's book bag and also on the school website. You will soon be able to find it directly on the Ofsted website.

You will see from the report that the school has been graded as a 'Good' school under the revised school inspection framework which was implemented in September 2012.

We are obviously very disappointed not to have maintained our 'outstanding' status but are heartened by the recognition of some of the unique characteristics of John Hampden, which make it a wonderful place for children to come to school. In the feedback we received, it was recognised that the school has moved on enormously since the last inspection, and that the judgement was '*a strong good*'.

Clearly, the timing of the inspection was far from ideal and I have communicated my views about this to Ofsted. We were very disappointed that they chose to inspect an infant school in the week before Christmas. At this time of year we take steps to channel the natural excitement of our young pupils into a range of different, yet purposeful learning opportunities. This includes rehearsals for Christmas productions which are a valuable, enjoyable experience for pupils and a chance for the school community to celebrate together. The dates for the inspection meant we had to postpone dress rehearsals and quickly re-organise timetables and lessons to provide a more 'normal' structure which the Lead Inspector requested to observe. The timing of the inspection meant the resulting 'one off' lessons were not a true reflection of the normal working pattern of the school and arguably the quality of some of the observed lessons was not as strong as usual. Our pupils also had to adapt to the required changes, when they were really looking forward to the other activities that had been planned. Careful planning/timetabling is a strong feature of our school and the timing of the inspection prevented us from showing our normal themed approach towards producing cohesive, high quality lessons. Strong triangulation proved that children in our school are taught well and assessed realistically leading to our consistently outstanding results. Unfortunately the different emphasis within the new Ofsted framework and the timing of the inspection has not been to our advantage on this occasion.



Regardless of the outcome, it goes without saying that we will continue to strive for continuous improvement. We will work hard to address the issues that we know will make our school even better for the children who come here – and we will try to ensure that we are definitely judged to be outstanding next time!

Many thanks for the support you consistently give us, but especially at the time of the inspection - I sincerely hope that this judgement does not affect your view of the school. The governors and I are very happy to discuss any aspect of the report in more detail if you wish, and you can contact us via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Sue Barnes