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Dear Parents/Carers

### Visit of Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for School Reform to an Outstanding School

We had a surprise and short notice visit from Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for School Reform, this week. Such a visit is an unusual event for a school, certainly it is the first occasion I have experienced (and I have been head since 1997!). The reason behind it certainly needs celebrating. Our year six SATs results last year, building on ever improving outcomes over time is what attracted the attention of our Westminster visitor.

What Nick Gibb wanted to know is how we have achieved such 'outstanding' results (more on that word a little later). The tour of the school will have told him quite a significant amount because you only have to look at our Jubilee Garden, Community Gardens and the school both inside and out (including the children and staff of course!) to recognise that we are making the most of the resources we have.

The key word that covers everything is 'attitude', our children, parents, staff, governors and our community are proud of what we have achieved together. The quality of teaching is vital of course but what you also need are children who want to do well and want to be in school, to be here on time, day in day out. You need parents who are supportive and a school that listens to concerns and acts decisively and promptly, you need staff who are dedicated to doing their best for the children and governors and school leaders who constantly strive to improve. His visit reflected the hard work and dedication supplied by everyone who is part of our school community. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our school being recognised in this way.

Closely connected to the above and returning to a word mentioned earlier, I had a phone call from a Senior Adviser who works for Derbyshire County Council (DCC). Each year D.C.C. writes a report on all of the schools that it is responsible for. The reason for the call was to let us know that the view of the Local Authority (D.C.C.) is that this school should be described as '**Outstanding**' in this year's report. '**Outstanding**' is the highest category for a school and only a very small percentage of schools achieve it. I as head, Mr Hubbard as Chair of Governors and Miss Adair and Mrs George as the Senior Leadership Team, recognise that we can still improve the school and will always strive to do so. However, it would be equally wrong not to appreciate the significance and importance of this accolade and how it reflects years of hard work by our school community.

Yours sincerely

Kelvin Gibbs  
Headteacher



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