



8th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted News

Firstly may I wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2026. I hope you were able to enjoy the Christmas break, free of all the germs that seem to be circulating. It has been lovely to see the vast majority of our children back with us and thank you for your continuing efforts in ensuring they are regularly in school.

As you saw in our Portico newsletter at the end of the last term, there is so much happening in each school, alongside the every day learning. We are grateful for your support for everything we do and indeed the success of the children is due to our strong partnerships between school and you, our families.

During last term the government introduced a number of changes to schools, but the one which exercised our minds the most was the new Ofsted Framework. We are still working on understanding the reality behind the words. I want to assure you that in each of our schools we aim for the highest standards of teaching and the offered curriculum, so that the children learn effectively and make maximum progress, regardless of their starting point. We are always striving for the best outcomes for the children, not just for Ofsted.

This happens each and every day, but we are also aware that the Ofsted machine will scrutinise our activities in a different way from previous years. School life is not run by Ofsted, but leaders work hard to complete paperwork in readiness and practise responses to questions that might be posed. But above all, inspectors, if doing a good job, will find out about the school by watching and listening to the children.

We think that West Leigh Junior School might be the first of our schools inspected under the new framework. West Leigh has been an outstanding school since 2006, but this new framework grades schools differently.

There are six or seven areas in the judgements. Each area will be reported on and Ofsted have advised that the majority of successful schools will be found to be working at the expected level, which roughly correlates with the previous good description. Some schools will hopefully be judged as strong in at least some areas – the strong judgement is akin to the outstanding of the last framework.

This framework allows for an exceptional category in each area, but we have been told that very few schools will be judged exceptional.

Please be assured that regardless of impending inspections over the next two years, we will all continue to ensure the very best provision and care for your children in all of our schools.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration, we highly value our working together.

Your sincerely

Cheryl Woolf CEO



