

30 January 2008

Dear Children



Inspection of St. Mary's Primary School, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7NS

What a lovely school! I thoroughly enjoyed my short visit. Thank you for being so welcoming and helpful.

There are many good things about the school. You are all so friendly. You are very sensible and well behaved. Your headteacher gives good leadership. All the grown ups work together to help you with your learning and want to make absolutely sure that you all do as well as you possibly can. You make good friendships. I was particularly impressed with the way you welcome newcomers into the school family. Quite a number of children join your school in different year groups and you soon make them feel at home. You work and play happily together and enjoy learning new things. You always do your best and so you make good progress. By the time you get to Class 4 you are good at reading, writing, mathematics, science and ICT. You think hard about how to become powerful learners and are good at identifying what makes learning successful. You enjoy doing some interesting things, like the big project on Africa. You know how to stay safe and look after yourselves. You have a good understanding about how to eat a balanced diet and the need to take regular, vigorous exercise.

There are three main things that Ms Parker and I think would help to improve the school even more. We think that it would help you to make even better progress if you had a much clearer understanding of the targets you are aiming at in literacy and numeracy. We also think that you could improve your spelling and handwriting. Lastly, we think that the outside learning area for the children in Class 1 could be extended and made much more exciting.

I wish you every success in the future.

John Messer

Lead inspector