

# 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025



As we enter one of the busiest periods of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to share some updates and extend my thanks for your continued support. This time of year, is always full of energy, anticipation, and community spirit, and we are very much looking forward to the many events we have planned. Our children have been working incredibly hard on this year's nativity performance, *The Sounds of Christmas*. The school has been filled with wonderful singing, enthusiastic rehearsals, and plenty of festive cheer. The children cannot wait to perform for you in the coming days, and we are sure their efforts will shine through in a memorable and heart-warming production.

Mrs Irwin

## **Farewell to Miss Bamford – A Wonderful 16 Years at Larkfields**

At the end of this term, we say a heartfelt and emotional farewell to someone who has played an extraordinary role in the life of our school. After 16 incredible years at Larkfields, Miss Bamford is moving on to her next chapter, and while we are excited for her, we will miss her.

During her time with us, we have watched Miss Bamford grow in many ways, most notably becoming a mum, a role she has embraced with the same warmth, dedication, and enthusiasm she has always shown here at school. Her commitment to Larkfields has been unwavering. Whether supporting children through challenges, celebrating their achievements, or offering a listening ear, she has always gone above and beyond.

What sets Miss Bamford apart is her passion, not only for the children, whom she cares for deeply, but also for the entire staff team. She is the kind of colleague who brings energy, kindness, and humour to every day, lifting those around her and helping to create the supportive environment we are so proud of.

Her willingness to get stuck into school life has made her a central and unforgettable part of our community. Over the years, she has worn many hats, including dressing up as Barbie, braving a face full of wet sponges, and throwing herself wholeheartedly into countless events, celebrations, and fundraisers. Whatever the occasion, Miss Bamford has always been there with a smile and a readiness to make the moment special for our pupils.

We are enormously grateful for everything she has given to our school, her time, her dedication, her laughter, and her heart. She has touched the lives of so many children and colleagues, and her impact will be felt for many years to come.

## **OFSTED update for parents**

### **New Ofsted grading system**

The main change is that we no longer give one overall judgement, such as 'good', 'outstanding' or 'requires improvement'.

Instead, the report cards show colour-coded grades for different areas – the aspects of education that matter most to you, like ‘attendance and behaviour’, ‘achievement’, ‘personal development and well-being’, and ‘inclusion’ (meaning how well the school or other provider meets the needs of all children).

We grade these areas on a new scale:

- ‘Exceptional’
- ‘Strong standard’
- ‘Expected standard’
- ‘Needs attention’
- ‘Urgent improvement’

We also tell you whether safeguarding responsibilities are ‘met’ or ‘not met’.

It’s important to understand that the new grades can’t be compared to the old ones: this is a different approach to inspection and a new way of reporting to you.

### **What the new Ofsted grades tell you**

The ‘expected standard’ is just that – it means the school or other provider is doing everything that it should be doing, so you’ll see the green colour coding on the report card. It’s a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve.

Moving up the scale, ‘strong standard’ marks out excellent, consistent work that’s making a real difference for children and learners.

And finally, there’s ‘exceptional’. We only award this grade when we see practice that is among the very best nationally, which should be shared with other schools or providers to help them improve.

‘Needs attention’ is an indication that there is work to be done to reach the ‘expected standard’. It’s not a ‘fail’ but it highlights where issues can be addressed before they become bigger problems that need ‘urgent improvement’.

You may see a mix of grades across a report card: it’s perfectly possible to achieve highly in some areas, and require a little more focus in others.

### **New Member of Staff**

We are also delighted to welcome a new member to our staff team. Nav Virdi joins us as an experienced teaching assistant and will be working predominantly alongside children in Year One and Year Two. We are thrilled to have her with us and know she will be a fantastic addition to our school community.