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Dear Parents and Carers

It seems a long time since we had the initial telephone call to say Ofsted would be visiting but today the final report is out. It is official; we are an '**OUTSTANDING SCHOOL**'!

We are delighted that the hard work of everyone at St Stephens School has been recognised in this way. To receive a judgement of 'outstanding' in every aspect of an Ofsted Inspection is rare and only a very few schools achieve this accolade. Indeed, we are the only school in this part of North Cornwall who has been rated outstanding.

The full report is attached to this letter but here are some highlights:

- Pupils' outstanding achievement starts from the moment they enter the school and continues until they leave. They are inspired and encouraged to excel in this wonderful school where everything is focused on improving the life chances of all pupils.
- All parents and carers questioned said that their children are taught outstandingly well and make excellent progress at the school, a view also shared by the pupils.
- Pupils' attitude to learning is outstanding. They are ready to learn and keen to start working. In lessons they contribute fully and respect their teachers highly. Their behaviour in lessons and around the school is exemplary.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. Stimulating lessons are well planned and expertly delivered by an excellent team of teachers and teaching assistants.
- The headteacher provides inspirational and visionary leadership to this outstanding school. Together, with the excellent team that supports him, they have ensured that the rapid improvements at the school have been secured and made sustainable.
- Classrooms are full of well-behaved pupils who are very focused when working together and eager to do well.
- The governing body is highly effective ...ensuring that all groups of pupils have the opportunity to succeed, resulting in outstanding achievement for all.
- Inclusion is at the heart of the school where everyone really does matter.

The process of school inspection is rigorous and scrutinises every aspect of school life. This is rightly so, as we are dealing with your children's futures. We would all like to give a huge thank you to the 'grown ups' who have worked tirelessly in making this outstanding achievement possible but most importantly thank the children who provide us with the inspiration and challenge to continue to do our best.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Mills  
Deputy Headteacher