

8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of our families back to school after the summer break. The children have settled well into their new classes and have had a fantastic first week back in school. I would like to send a warm welcome to all our new families who are joining the West Vale family this year.

I am delighted to begin our new academic year with the fantastic news that, following our two-day Ofsted inspection in June, **West Vale Academy has officially been judged as a good school.** The full Ofsted report is available to view on our website.

As you may be aware, this is the first time since 2012 that the school has been judged as good. The judgement is testament to the work undertaken by stakeholders, and I would like to personally thank all those involved. The following quote from the report reflects your ongoing support, which is always greatly appreciated:

*“West Vale has come a long, long way. I think as a school they have made massive progress.”* Parent.

The report highlights many strengths to celebrate, some of which are quoted below:

*“Pupils are making good progress and achieving well.”*

*“Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) thrive in school.”*

*“Children are getting off to a flying start in West Vale’s Reception Year.”*

*“Leaders have developed an impressive curriculum for pupils’ personal development.”*

I am exceptionally proud to be the new Principal of West Vale Academy at such an exciting time. We have had a positive start to the new academic year by communicating our high expectations to children through the launch of new school values, which will underpin positive attitudes to learning and school life.

I would like to invite you into school to celebrate with us, further details to follow. In the meantime, should you wish to discuss any aspect of the report, please do not hesitate to speak to me in the playground at drop off/ pick up times, or contact me directly.

I look forward to working in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely

Laura Horsfall  
Principal

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