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Headteacher: Mrs Cheryl Williams

24th February 2026

Dear Families,

OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT - 6TH JANUARY 2026

We are writing to share the outcome of the Ofsted inspection carried out at Sheerhatch Primary School on 5 and 6 January 2026. A link to the inspection report is included with this letter.

As you may be aware, the Ofsted inspection framework changed in December 2025, and Sheerhatch was one of the first schools in the county to be inspected under this new framework. To support parents' understanding of the revised report card format, [Ofsted has produced a short explanatory video, which can be accessed via the link provided.](#)

Under the new Ofsted inspection framework, judgements for each area are made using secure-fit criteria rather than the previous best-fit model. This means that, to be awarded a higher grade, a school must meet all of the published criteria for that judgement, rather than the majority, as was the case under the former framework. As a result, even where many strengths are evident and strong improvements are underway, a higher judgement cannot be awarded until every element of the criteria is securely in place and consistently demonstrated.

[Please find a link to the Sheerhatch Primary School Ofsted report dated 6th January 2026 here.](#)

We are pleased to report that Sheerhatch Primary School was judged to be at the Expected standard in the areas of Attendance and Behaviour, Inclusion, Personal Development and Wellbeing, and Safeguarding.

The inspection identified Needs Attention judgements in Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching, Early Years, and Leadership and Governance. Inspectors clearly acknowledged the significant improvements already completed and the strong momentum for change across the school. However, some of this work is still in progress and its full impact, including outcomes and data, was not yet available at the time of the inspection and therefore could not be reflected within the report.

As part of our continued improvement journey, the school is working closely with a range of external specialists. This includes a Read Write Inc consultant to support phonics teaching, a Bedford Borough English specialist and the Lincolnshire Teaching Hub to strengthen writing, the Enigma Maths Hub to support mathematics across the school, and a Bedford Borough Early

Years and Year 1 consultant to enhance provision in our early years. In addition, Mrs Williams is working with Voice 21, The Harpur Trust and Pioneers Learning Trust to further develop the overall quality of education at Sheerhatch Primary.

We are confident that these actions place the school firmly on a positive trajectory, and that our journey towards achieving the Expected standard in all areas is well underway. We look forward to the opportunity for these areas to be reviewed again over the coming year.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the Ofsted report further, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Mrs Williams.

Yours sincerely

C. Williams

S.J. Cropley

P M Emery

Mrs Cheryl Williams
Headteacher

Mrs S. Cropley & Mr P. Emery
Co-Chairs of Governors