MORLEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

‘The Morley Feeling where anything can be achieved.’

Main Road, Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DF
Telephone 01332 831295
http://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headmaster Mr Tony Taylor

March 2026

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. Under the new inspection framework (introduced nationally in November 2025), Morley Primary School has been judged to be meeting the **Expected Standard** across all areas, with the **Strong Standard awarded for Attendance and Behaviour**.

It is important to explain what this means. The current Ofsted framework sets a significantly high national bar. The “Expected Standard” does not mean average; it confirms that a school is securely fulfilling all statutory and professional expectations across curriculum, teaching, achievement, behaviour, inclusion, leadership and personal development. In short, it confirms that children at Morley are receiving a strong, well-rounded and safe education that prepares them well for their next steps.

You may notice that the report does not include a single overall one-word judgement such as “Outstanding” or “Good.” Since November 2025, Ofsted no longer uses these overall labels. Instead, schools are evaluated against the key areas outlined in the report. This approach focuses on the lived experience of children in school rather than a single headline word.

I am incredibly proud of our children and staff. Inspectors clearly recognised what makes Morley special. They wrote:

“With remarkable unity, pupils and staff embrace the passion and sense of togetherness within ‘The Morley Feeling’.”

One of the most powerful aspects of the inspection was the recognition of our school culture — what we proudly call **“The Morley Feeling.”** At Morley, our values of **Togetherness, Love and Passion** are not simply words on a wall — they are lived every day in classrooms, on the playground and in our community. Inspectors saw how older children care for younger ones, how relationships between staff and children are secure and positive, and how kindness and respect are embedded in daily routines. They recognised that our culture creates a place where children feel safe, valued and proud to belong. We are deeply proud that the spirit of Morley was so clearly seen and commended.

The report highlights many strengths. Inspectors noted that *“Pupils love their school and, as a result, attend regularly.”* Attendance was found to be significantly above national averages, and behaviour was recognised as strong, with inspectors highlighting the calm and orderly environment in which children can learn and play.

Academically, the report confirms what we have sustained over time. In reading, writing and mathematics, children have attained significantly above national averages over many years. In 2025 End of Key Stage 2 published outcomes, 92% of our children reached the Expected Standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined, compared to 62% nationally.

Over time, Morley’s results have placed us regularly within the top 1–2% of schools nationally for combined outcomes. This sustained performance reflects the dedication of staff, the hard work of children and the strong partnership we share with you as parents.

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Inspectors praised leadership, noting that leaders “*precisely evaluate the quality of the school’s work*” and make decisions “*in the best interests of pupils*.” They also recognised the high morale of staff, and the strong support and challenge provided by ACE Derbyshire Trust.

I was particularly pleased that the inspectors captured the essence of our community when they wrote that parents are “*highly complimentary*” and proud of the school. Thank you for the wonderful comments many of you shared during the inspection. Your support, honesty and belief in the school mean more than you know.

The report also gives us clear next steps. Ofsted identified two areas for further development:

• Providing more opportunities across the wider curriculum for children to review and revisit prior learning so that key knowledge is embedded in the long term.
• Further developing spoken language in Early Years so that children achieve all that they are capable of.

We welcome this clarity. This report is not an end point; it marks the beginning of an exciting new stage of development for Morley. As part of the ACE Derbyshire Trust, and with our ambitious staff team, we are already building on these areas. Continuous improvement is part of who we are.

The inspectors recognised our long history of delivering high-quality education and our important role in the local community. That legacy continues — and our ambition remains high.
Thank you for your ongoing trust, partnership and support. Morley is special because of its children, its staff and its families.

I am immensely proud to lead this school and excited about the next chapter in our journey.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Taylor
Headmaster