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'Outstanding' Ofsted report

SPARKENHOE Primary was last inspected in May 2010 when it was judged to be an outstanding school by Ofsted.

The education watchdog said that pupils thrived in their personal and academic life.

Inspectors said that there was a strong ethos of care and support that enabled children to be confident and successful learners, well prepared for secondary school.

They said pupils learned exceptionally well and benefited from consistently good and frequently outstanding teaching.

Youngsters enjoy world cup drama

BY **FIONA DRYDEN**
Education Correspondent

YOUNGSTERS at one inner city school are embracing the Rugby World Cup this week.

Staff and students at Sparkenhoe Primary, in Highfields, have adopted a country from the cup and will be showcasing songs and dances to coincide with this, including three different versions of the haka.

The whole school, some 490 pupils, will take part in the special event tomorrow and have already taken part in tag rugby lessons to learn all about the sport.

Head teacher Rhian Jones said: "It's designed to get them thinking about the World Cup, particularly as it's on our doorstep, while teaching them about the world around them, too."

"They've learned about the different countries involved and practised dances and songs connected to each country. It's really helped broaden their horizons."

"They're all really looking forward to their parents coming in and watching them."

Most importantly, she said: "The children have had enormous amounts of fun in the process."

About 80 per cent of pupils at Sparkenhoe Primary speak English as a second language, so it's important, says Ms Jones, to embrace its ethnic diversity.

"We've had several whole school events like this over the



PICTURES: MIKE SEWELL
WE'RE HAVING A BALL! Sparkenhoe Primary School pupils

years and it's all about learning while having fun. We want our pupils to have a sense of where they are in the world and know that they can contribute positively to it.

"Last year we held events based

on our school's motto - together we can...

"The children had to finish off the sentence and came up with ideas including, together we can eradicate poverty, before deciding just what they

could do to help make that happen.

"It gave them a sense of personal responsibility and really helped open their eyes to what was happening in the rest of the world, as well as closer to home."

Here's what the pupils had to say about their special event



Bhargav Jayesh, nine
"I've learned how to pass the ball in rugby and it's been fun learning how to play it."



Tehmina Saiyed, eight
"I like it when the whole school comes together to do something. I'm going to be doing the haka"



Cuthbert Taylor, 10
"I'm really excited about it and I'm enjoying learning about different countries."



Jabelul Islam, 10
"It's nice to learn about different cultures."



Tasmin Farah, 10
"I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone's dances."



Sileena West-Martin, 10
"It's nice to see all the different year groups and get together like this to do something."



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