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5 November 2010

Mrs Parton
Headteacher
St Peter's CofE (C) Primary School
Main Street
Stonnall
WS9 9EE

Dear Mrs Parton

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of St Peter's CofE (C) Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 4 November 2010, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please pass on my thanks to the pupils for the courtesy they showed when talking with me.

There have been a number of staff changes since the previous inspection. Following the resignation of the previous headteacher at the end of the summer term 2009, your assistant headteacher took on the role of acting headteacher from September 2009 until you took up your post as headteacher in January 2010. Two new class teachers joined the school in September 2009.

As a result of the inspection on 7 July 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made:

good progress in making improvements

and

good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Results of national assessments for pupils in Year 6 have improved considerably over the past two years. The underachievement noted in the previous inspection report has been eradicated and attainment in English and science is now above the national average. Attainment in mathematics is in line with the national average. This

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improved attainment is reflected in the work seen in classrooms during the inspection. In most lessons, pupils were making good progress. Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage were making outstanding progress. This was the result of careful planning and the excellent deployment of skilled adults in the classroom and outdoors.

You have put in place a range of strategies to improve the way teachers assess, plan and teach lessons. The comprehensive range of monitoring and evaluation activities is being used very effectively to support teachers in developing their skills. As a result, teachers are now consistently using assessment well to plan and teach lessons which are interesting and provide a good level of challenge to pupils. Consequently, pupils are now making good progress and this is reflected in improved attainment at the end of Key Stage 2.

You have implemented an appropriate system to monitor the progress made by individual pupils. This system is being used well to identify any pupils who may be underachieving, and underpins effective intervention work. For example, one-to-one tuition has been used successfully to accelerate learning for a number of pupils. Your tracking system shows that these pupils have continued to make good progress once this short-term programme of support has ended.

You have taken effective action to improve pupils' knowledge of others from different backgrounds. This includes significant enhancement of the curriculum including international days and setting up pen-pal links with children around the world. The success of this work has been recognised in attaining the foundation and intermediate levels of the International Schools Award, and is reflected in the pupils' excitement about their new-found knowledge.

Action taken to address issues with attendance has been very effective. You have appointed your assistant headteacher as attendance officer. She has worked to implement successful strategies to improve attendance and has developed strong links with the education welfare officer. As a result, attendance rates have risen from below average at the time of the previous inspection and are now above average.

With good support from the local authority in developing the skills of the leadership team and improving the quality of teaching, the school has been very successful in tackling the issues raised in the previous inspection. This is a good example of how the school has made good progress in improving its own capacity to improve.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mark Mumby
Her Majesty's Inspector

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Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in July 2009.

- Improve how teachers assess, plan and teach lessons to challenge all pupils' learning so they reach higher standards in English, science and mathematics.
- Work with families to improve pupils' attendance rate by reducing the number of term-time holidays taken.
- Ensure that senior leaders devise effective ways of monitoring class progress and improving pupils' knowledge of others from different backgrounds so they achieve better in their academic and personal development.