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14 October 2010

Mrs Kathryn Sugars  
Foley Park Primary School and Nursery  
Northumberland Avenue  
Kidderminster  
DY11 7AW

Dear Mrs Sugars

### **Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Foley Park Primary School and Nursery**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Wednesday 13 October 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, staff and representatives from the governing body and local authority for the time they gave to meet with me.

Since the school was last inspected in June 2009, there have been a number of changes in teaching staff including the appointment newly qualified teachers in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The leadership team has been restructured and strengthened with the appointment of experienced staff.

As a result of the inspection on 16 and 17 June 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 satisfactory progress in making improvements and in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Since the last inspection, the school has placed a greater emphasis on improving the quality of teaching and learning. Robust systems have been introduced to keep a close eye on the progress made by different groups of pupils. These are all positive developments and are contributing to rising standards and increased rates of progress.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage make good progress in most areas of learning and enter Year 1 broadly in line with the expected level for their age. However, their attainment in key areas of learning such as early reading, writing and calculation is lower than expected for this age. The latest school data indicates that



pupils make satisfactory progress in Key Stage 1. Some pupils make good progress, particularly in reading and mathematics in Year 2. By the end of Key Stage 2, rates of progress have increased and pupils make good progress, particularly in writing.

The 2010 unvalidated Year 6 test results indicate that a greater proportion of pupils achieved the expected levels, particularly in reading and mathematics. Although standards in writing have improved since the last inspection, the school recognises that there is still work to be done to bring these figures in line with national averages.

The quality of teaching, assessment and learning is improving throughout the school. Assessment for learning strategies have been developed and staff have received training from the local authority and the senior leadership team. Consequently, teachers have a secure understanding of how well their pupils are progressing. The school has introduced a revised approach to setting individual pupil targets. Pupils are knowledgeable about their targets, particularly in mathematics, and this is contributing positively to improvements in achievement.

The satisfactory teaching observed during the inspection demonstrated that recent developments are improving classroom practice, particularly in Key Stage 2. For example, learning objectives are shared with pupils along with success criteria for evaluating how well they are progressing. In lessons, relationships are positive and behaviour is good. Pupils enjoy their learning and work cooperatively together. A range of pupils' books sampled during the inspection indicated that teachers were marking work regularly and in the best examples helpful comments were used to indicate how the work could be improved further.

Good progress has been made in improving facilities for outdoor learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Nursery and Reception classes have separate outdoor areas which are well resourced and include large covered areas for wet weather activities. Children in both classes have regular access to a large playground where they enjoy exploring on their trikes and bikes.

The school has worked closely with parents and the education welfare officer to improve rates of attendance and reduce persistent absence. Since the last inspection, attendance has improved from 92.5% to 94.4% and persistent absence has dropped by 8%. This represents good progress against this area for improvement.

The headteacher, leadership team and governing body have a clear understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement in the school. The work of the school is evaluated soundly and improvements to the quality of teaching, rising standards and improving achievement demonstrate a satisfactory capacity to improve further.

The school engages effectively with the local authority, which has provided satisfactory challenge and support. During the inspection, safeguarding procedures were checked and found to meet the latest requirements.

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

Marian Harker  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

## Annex

### **The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in June 2009**

- Improve attendance and raise standards throughout the school, particularly in writing.
- Improve the quality of teaching in Key Stage 2, through better use of pupils' individual targets, especially in mathematics.
- Improve the outdoor spaces for Nursery and Reception so that children can go outside in wet weather and use the ride-on equipment more frequently.