

Tribal  
1-4 Portland Square  
BRISTOL  
BS2 8RR

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524 **Direct T** 0845 123 6001  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk **Direct F** 0117 315 0430  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) **Direct email:** sarah.cartlidge@tribalgroup.com

27 January 2011

Mrs C Dunstan  
The Headteacher  
Great Linford Primary School  
St Leger Drive  
Great Linford  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK14 5BL

Dear Mrs Dunstan

### **Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Great Linford Primary School**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 26 January 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please also thank the chair of the governing body and the pupils for talking to me.

Since the last inspection four members of staff have changed role and two have taken early retirement. The sudden death of a long-standing and popular deputy headteacher in October 2010 was a sad moment for the staff and pupils but did not slow the process of improvement that had begun earlier in the year. An interim assistant headteacher has been appointed until Easter 2011.

As a result of the inspection on 8 December 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 good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Overall achievement is satisfactory. Pupils' attainment on entry is below what is expected nationally, and remains low by the end of Key Stage 2. However, the gap is closing, as all groups of pupils are making better progress throughout the school and especially through Key Stage 2. From the lesson observations, the school's tracking data and teacher assessments, most pupils make satisfactory progress in class and are on course to exceed their targets.

The improvements in learning and progress are a consequence of better teaching. The headteacher, with good support from other leaders in the school and local authority consultants, is putting in place a wide range of strategies to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and pupils' learning in class. Leaders observe teachers working in their classroom rigorously and this tracking shows that the proportion of good or better teaching is increasing. There is clear evidence in the school of improved rigour in the use of assessment information and tracking procedures for monitoring pupils' progress across the school. However, although teachers are committed to improving this aspect of their work, there are still inconsistencies in the way data are used to plan appropriately challenging activities for all groups of pupils. Marking is more rigorous and target setting is based more securely on assessment information generated by better assessment tasks. Moderation of teacher assessments has improved.

The interim assistant headteacher is making a positive impact on school improvement, and on improving attendance in particular. Overall attendance is now above average. The proportion of pupils who are persistently absent from school is falling. The school has engaged parents more effectively in helping to reduce absence and parents now know that only in exceptional circumstances can they take pupils out of school for holidays in term time.

Pupils' behaviour is good and pupils listen attentively and work hard when asked. This is because teaching is more highly focused on the needs of the individual pupils and lessons have been made more exciting and relevant to the pupils. There are more opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills. Pupils say they really enjoy coming to school. They were very enthusiastic about their work and were keen to show how well they were doing. The provision for care, guidance and support remains strong and pupils said they felt safe at school. Safeguarding procedures remain good.

The leadership of the school and the governing body have been determined to make sure that the improvements being embedded in school practice and procedures are sustainable for the future. There are clear indications that the school's capacity to improve further has improved since the previous inspection and is now good.

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

Peter Limm  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

## **Annex**

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

- Raise standards by improving learning throughout the school by:
  - increasing the proportion of teaching which is good or better through consistent use of performance data to match activities to pupils' abilities.
- Improve attendance by:
  - working with the local authority and families to reduce the number of pupils with poor attendance records
  - working with families to discourage them from taking their children on holiday during term time.