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Mrs J Cowley
The Headteacher
Cam Woodfield Junior School
Elstub Lane
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Dursley
Gloucestershire
GL11 6JJ

Dear Mrs Cowley

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Cam Woodfield Junior School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 1 February 2011, 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 particular thanks to the members of the governing body who gave up their time to meet with me. Their contributions were most helpful.

As a result of the inspection on 19 January 2010, 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.

Pupils' achievement is currently satisfactory, but improving rapidly. Attainment, which at the time of the previous inspection was judged to be low, is now broadly average. In the 2010 end of Key Stage 2 results, there was a marked increase in the proportion of pupils who gained Level 4 or better in both English and mathematics. Pupils' progress in mathematics remains slower than in English, but the gap is narrowing over time. Scrutiny of pupils' work and of the assessment information provided by the school clearly indicates that rates of progress of all groups of pupils, whilst remaining satisfactory, are accelerating securely and quickly.

Since the previous inspection, the headteacher and senior leaders have led a successful focus on improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school. The proportion of good or better teaching has improved quickly and is consistently



good across the range of classes. The most effective teaching is typically well planned and, in almost all cases, there is an appropriate match between the tasks set and pupils' capabilities and interests. There has been a marked improvement in ensuring that lessons proceed at an appropriate pace, leading to greater pupil engagement in learning. The use of success criteria has been successfully introduced and is especially evident and effective in literacy lessons. Its use in other areas of the curriculum is currently less well developed, although the school has plans to extend this in the near future. Pupils receive helpful guidance through the marking of their work, and they are generally clear about what they need to do to improve. In the evidence seen during the inspection, this was more apparent in the Years 5/6 classes, than in those with younger pupils.

School leaders have responded vigorously and robustly to the areas for improvement highlighted in the previous inspection and have produced realistic and achievable plans to move the school forward rapidly. The vertical leadership structure has made a strong and distinctive contribution to school improvement. It has successfully raised the expectations of all staff about what pupils are capable of achieving in English and mathematics. All staff routinely make good use of an effective tracking system which provides a clear picture of pupils' progress towards achieving their increasingly challenging targets. The vertical structure has also clearly raised leadership capacity at all levels by enhancing the involvement of all staff in school improvement planning and by securing a greater sense of accountability for pupils' progress from all staff, including teaching assistants.

Evidence from the inspection indicates that the local authority provides effective and well-targeted support to school leaders. Notable features include the consultant leadership support given to senior leaders and the brokerage of opportunities for all staff to experience outstanding practice from colleagues in other local schools. This, in particular, has increased staff's confidence and competence to teach consistently good or better lessons. The support package to develop the effectiveness of the governing body has also been well received.

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

Ken Bush
Additional Inspector



Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in January 2010

- Raise standards and ensure good progress for pupils by:
 - improving the effectiveness of teaching in every lesson through consistent pace and the use of clear success criteria that pupils understand.
- Embed the vertical team structure to enhance the leadership team in driving improvement.

