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Mrs A Carnelley
The Headteacher
John Perry Primary School
Charles Road
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 8UR

Dear Mrs Carnelley

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of John Perry Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 4 May 2011, for the time you gave to our telephone discussion and for the information that you provided before and during the inspection. Please thank the governors, staff and pupils for making me feel so welcome and for helping me with the inspection.

Since the last inspection pupil mobility has been high and the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language and who are at the early stages of learning English has increased. The school has begun to introduce the International Primary Curriculum but this is still at a very early stage of development.

As a result of the inspection on 11 and 12 February 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 satisfactory progress in making improvements and satisfactory progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Improved assessment arrangements have ensured that the school has accurate information on the attainment and progress of pupils across the school. The school's tracking data show a rising trend in attainment and that many pupils are on track to achieve their challenging targets. High pupil mobility is affecting outcomes, particularly at Key Stage 2. For example, around 40% of Year 6 pupils joined the school at various points during Key Stage 2 and although they are making

satisfactory progress in relation to their starting points and individual needs, the school's targets for this cohort are unlikely to be reached.

A good range of strategies contributes to improving attendance. These include the use of electronic communications to let parents know that their child is unexpectedly absent and regular newsletters inform parents about attendance issues and celebrate good attendance. Any absence is investigated rigorously. The school has been particularly successful in reducing the number of pupils who are persistently absent. Consequently, attendance is rising and it is currently just above average.

The school development plan focuses sharply on key priorities and termly reviews are in place to monitor progress on the areas for improvement. Although the plan has helpful success criteria, it would benefit from additional interim milestones to aid members of the governing body, who have recently taken individual responsibility for closely monitoring different aspects of the improvement plan, to evaluate the impact of the planned actions. The leadership structure has been refined to ensure clear lines of accountability, and training provided for staff, including those with leadership responsibilities, so that they now have increased capacity to support improvement. Systematic monitoring of lessons ensures that the senior leadership team has an accurate picture of strengths and areas for development in teaching and learning.

A local authority advisor was commissioned to undertake an audit of the Early Years Foundation Stage provision. Following this review, improvements were made, including improvements to the physical environment to increase the range of different experiences and challenges for children in this stage. Children settle quickly in the Nursery and Reception. They enjoy learning and are becoming increasingly independent and self-reliant. Reception children spoke confidently about what they were doing and took pleasure in showing me round and explaining what they liked best. School data show that children in the Early Years Foundation Stage are consistently developing the knowledge, skills and understanding expected for their various ages.

Local authority advisors and the School Improvement Partner have provided a good balance of challenge and support which has helped the school to improve in significant areas of its work.

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

Robert Ellis
Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

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

- Improve attendance so that it is consistently at least average by summer 2010.
- Improve leadership by ensuring that:
 - the priorities of the current development plan are implemented without further delay
 - middle leaders conduct regular lesson observations and work scrutiny with feedback and action points, and improve their planning and analysis of the curriculum.
- Accelerate pupils' progress by ensuring that:
 - tasks are better matched to different abilities within lessons and include more opportunities for pupils to develop their thinking skills
 - teachers improve their use of assessment in the classroom.
- In the Early Years Foundation Stage, eliminate inconsistencies in provision so that reception pupils participate more actively in their learning.