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Ms E Lynch  
Headteacher  
Kettlefields Primary School  
Stetchworth Road  
Dullingham  
CB8 9UH

Dear Ms Lynch

**Special measures: monitoring inspection of Kettlefields Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 15 June 2011, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings.

The inspection was the second monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in September 2010. The full list of the areas for improvement which were identified during that inspection are set out in the annex to this letter. The monitoring inspection report is attached and the main judgements are set out below.

Progress since being subject to special measures – good.

Progress since previous monitoring inspection – good.

This letter and monitoring inspection report will be posted on the Ofsted website. I am copying this letter and the monitoring inspection report to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Cambridgeshire.

Yours sincerely

**David Jones**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

## **Annex**

### **The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in September 2010.**

- Ensure that the quality of teaching and support leads to pupils making consistently good progress by:
  - ensuring leaders understand the strengths and weaknesses of all school staff and plan bespoke professional development
  - improving teachers' subject knowledge and expectations
  - providing opportunities for teachers to work alongside expert colleagues to share and promote good practice
  - providing teaching assistants and other adult helpers with training, regular guidance and support so they can effectively promote learning for groups and individuals.
  
- Increase the capacity of leaders by:
  - providing support and training for subject leaders and the acting deputy headteacher so they are able to demonstrate a capacity to fulfil their roles independently
  - developing the ability of leaders at all levels to contribute to school improvement
  - ensuring that senior leaders have the skills to engage the full range of stakeholders in the school improvement process
  - ensuring the governing body challenges and supports the school effectively and that all statutory duties are met.
  
- Improve behaviour by:
  - improving the quality of teaching
  - ensuring expectations of behaviour are well understood, consistent and continually reinforced by all staff
  - providing opportunities for pupils to be involved in the design of rewards and sanctions so they are meaningful to them.
  
- Regain the confidence of parents and staff by:
  - ensuring communication is regular, positive, honest and proportionate
  - ensuring that staff and parents are consulted about significant changes, so they have the opportunity to contribute to the vision and direction of the school
  - ensure that feedback to parents and staff about their views includes proposed actions and the reasons for these.

## **Special measures: monitoring of Kettlefields Primary School**

### **Report from the second monitoring inspection on 15 June 2011**

#### **Evidence**

The inspector observed the school's work, scrutinised documents and met with the headteacher, nominated staff, groups of pupils, parents and carers, the Chair of the Governing Body and other governors, and a representative from the local authority.

#### **Context**

The governing body has been rejuvenated since the inspection that placed the school in special measures. Only two of the thirteen governors who were involved with the school in the autumn term of 2010 remain in post. The governing body successfully advertised the post of deputy headteacher nationally and the acting deputy headteacher was appointed from a strong field of applicants. A part-time teacher from Years 3 and 4 resigned at Easter, and an experienced supply teacher, known to the school, will hold this post for the remainder of the summer term. The governing body has appointed an experienced teacher on a permanent contract to this post from September.

#### **Pupils' achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning**

HMI observed learning in every class, scrutinised the pupils' books and spoke to children of all ages about their work. These observations were cross-referenced with information from the school's robust assessment monitoring data base; teacher assessment is accurate. Overall, pupils are making satisfactory and often good progress and many of the pupils in Years 2 and 6 are working above the level that might be expected for their age. HMI will review the outcomes of the Year 6 national tests as part of the autumn term visit.

#### **Other relevant pupil outcomes**

Good behaviour was evident throughout this visit; the improvement in teaching combined with the school's high expectations were significant factors. In lessons, pupils cooperated well with their peers and responded to effective teaching with a 'buzz' of excitement and a competitive urge to show what they knew, understood and could do.

HMI spoke to many parents at the beginning of each school day and all were positive about the change in their children's attitudes to learning and their enjoyment of their daily school experience. Almost all parents were very positive about the quality of the communication received from the school and governors. Parents made clear they felt the school had moved on very effectively since the

previous inspection; they were particularly positive about the quality of teaching, the leadership of the school and the role of governors since January 2011.

The parents of one pupil have consistently sought an apology from the previous governing body for the weakness in the school, identified in the previous inspection report. As that governing body has been replaced and the previous headteacher has resigned it is beyond the powers of the current governing body and headteacher to offer any comment on what happened in the past; that responsibility was discharged by the Ofsted inspection of September 2010. As the Director of Children, Schools and Families for the local authority has pointed out in her response to this issue, the current headteacher and governing body are new and 'that all connected with the school need to focus on the clear and rapid improvements underway'; HMI concurs with this view.

Progress since the last monitoring inspection on the areas for improvement:

- Improve behaviour – good.
- Regain the confidence of parents and staff – good

### **The effectiveness of provision**

HMI observed all staff teach and visited all classrooms on numerous occasions. Joint observations were conducted with the headteacher and her deputy; the views they expressed in the professional discussions that followed mirrored the judgements made by HMI. All teaching was good or better and this reflects the impressive developments in teaching and learning secured since the new senior management team and governing body accepted responsibility for the school in January of this year. In an outstanding Year 6 lesson, challenging discussion drew articulate responses from the pupils who listened attentively to their peers' comments before developing their own ideas. As the lesson moved on to an editing task, the pupils worked hard to apply the ideas developed in whole-class discussion. The positive changes in the teaching and learning observed during this inspection clearly support the views of the overwhelming majority of parents.

The work of teaching assistants and other support staff has improved, particularly where they follow the lead of the class teacher in terms of challenge and expectations; teaching assistants are often effective instructors in their own right. Support for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities continues to improve both organisationally and within the classroom. The variety of curriculum opportunities has been enhanced with visiting speakers, musicians and out-of-school experiences.

Progress since the last monitoring inspection on the areas for improvement:

- Ensure that the quality of teaching and support leads to pupils making consistently good progress – good

## **The effectiveness of leadership and management**

The headteacher and her deputy are driving improvement effectively and have a clear understanding of what aspect of the school's work needs to be enhanced and how to manage this process. School improvement planning has been well conceived and effectively managed; self-evaluation is realistic and has been a key part of the improvements secured.

Communication with stakeholders has improved notably and the overwhelming majority of the many parents and carers who spoke personally to HMI feel this is now a strength of the school. Governance has improved significantly. The governing body has established a structure of responsibilities and a capacity to challenge the school which the previous inspection report had noted was absent. The staffing changes planned for the new school year and the eagerly awaited outcomes of the Year 6 national tests are the final pieces of the jigsaw of rebuilding the school.

Progress since the last monitoring inspection on the areas for improvement:

- Increase the capacity of leaders – good

## **External support**

The effective support provided by the local authority's consultants, the School Improvement Partner and the partner schools has been particularly well managed by the headteacher, whose interim headship is a secondment from the local authority and, therefore, part of this support.

## **Priorities for further improvement**

- During the autumn term, evaluate the introduction of the new staffing structure.