

Serco Inspections
Cedar House
21 William Street
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1LH

Ofsted
T 0300 123 1231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Serco
Direct T 0121 683 3888



7 July 2011

Mr A Lakatos
Headteacher
Headlands Primary School
Bushland Road
Northampton
NN3 2NS

Dear Mr Lakatos

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Headlands Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 6 July 2011, for the time you gave to our telephone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please pass on my thanks to the members of the school council who gave up some of their lunch hour to speak to me and to the Chair of the Governing Body for finding time to attend the feedback.

Since the last inspection, one teacher has reduced her working commitments and now supports the school as a teaching assistant. A newly qualified teacher was appointed in September 2010.

As a result of the inspection on 18 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.

The pupils' attainment and the quality of their learning have improved since the last inspection. Preliminary results from the 2011 national tests at Key Stage 2 were available for this inspection and these show the consolidation of the improvements recorded in the 2010 Year 6 teacher assessments. The proportion of pupils securing the expected level, Level 4, in English and mathematics improved and is likely to be above the national average. Similarly, the results of the Key Stage 1 teacher assessments have also continued their trend of improvement, with 2011 outcomes likely to be above average. The school's assessment database is robust, marking is



of a high standard and good use is made of assessment information to guide the pupils' learning. Local moderation of assessments has been successfully conducted with partner schools. Senior staff use assessment information effectively to target support and enhance the challenges provided in all year groups.

HMI visited six lessons or parts of lessons, conducting the joint observation of teaching with senior staff. The views they expressed matched the judgements given by HMI. Teaching is more consistent than at the time of the last inspection, and the good progress seen in almost all lessons matched the rising standards recorded in the 2011 assessment and test data. In an outstanding Year 2 literacy lesson, the teacher used an image from the text, projected through the class computer system, as a focus for summarising pupils' comments and ideas. As a result, pupils' engagement was intense and the descriptive writing produced was well above age-related expectations. In a beautifully constructed plenary session, the teacher made excellent use of a soft toy to dramatise the story, capture the pupils' ideas and enhance their oral skills as they hung on her every word.

Significant effort and resources have been used to develop the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in lessons. For example, pupils in the Nursery were using programmable toys independently and with considerable skill, whilst the pupils in Year 2 were sequencing a story on laptop computers. Many other aspects of the curriculum have been reviewed and enhanced with good links made in Year 5 between geography, science and mathematics, supported by good computer access. Similarly, a wide range of visits now supports work on the cultural and religious diversity of the United Kingdom and these have also been blended into well-considered topic work.

The school has made good use of commercially available professional development programmes to support improvement and curriculum development.

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

David Jones

Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

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

- Ensure the good and outstanding practice in teaching is promoted throughout the school by:
 - giving staff more opportunities to share and build on good and outstanding practice, focusing on the impact of teaching on pupils' learning
 - always matching activities to pupils' differing abilities and needs.

- Improve the opportunities pupils are given to use ICT to support other subjects across the curriculum.

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the cultural diversity and the different religions in modern Britain.