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9 July 2011

Mrs G Horner
Headteacher
Warley Road Primary School
Warley Road
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 3TG

Dear Mrs Horner,

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Warley Road Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave to Mrs Lanovy-Taylor and me when we inspected your school on 8 July 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. I would particularly like to thank the pupils for their contribution to the visit in discussing their work so enthusiastically.

Since the last inspection the senior management team has been restructured and their roles clarified; this included the appointment of a new deputy headteacher from January 2011.

As a result of the inspection on 11 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 join the school with knowledge, understanding and skills which are well below expected levels, many with English as an additional language. They are keen and interested learners, and improvements in teaching and support mean that they are developing skills and knowledge quickly, particularly in language acquisition. As the teachers' assessments show, they are making progress in their learning in all year groups at a faster rate than seen in most schools. As a result, attainment in Year 2 in 2010 and 2011 has improved considerably, though it remains below the national average for 2010. In Year 6, the teachers' assessments show that attainment has also improved over the last two years and is now close to last year's national average.

The headteacher has made managers more accountable for the teams that they lead, particularly in monitoring and tracking progress and developing teaching and learning. The school has a systematic approach to coaching and supporting teachers. There is currently a

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particularly keen focus on the teaching of mathematics, where progress has been less strong. This has led to significant improvements that were observed during the inspection, particularly in the use of active learning approaches and the effective use of notebook-style computers and exciting software to support independent learning. This has had a notable impact on pupils' motivation and enthusiasm. There has also been an increased focus on problem solving. Tasks are usually carefully matched to the needs of different groups of pupils and questioning is effective in engaging all the class. As a result, the pace of learning is rapid and pupils are highly engaged and appropriately challenged. There are times when lessons are still too teacher-led, but the school recognises the need for pupils to be given further opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning. They do this eagerly where teaching is most effective.

Marking is now very consistent and of a good quality. Pupils are clear about their learning targets. Good work is always celebrated and teachers offer very helpful comments and advice to help pupils to improve their work. Presentation is usually impeccable and great pride is taken in the high quality of pupils' personal learning records, which include valuable photographic evidence.

Classrooms are now carefully monitored by the senior staff and team leaders. Teaching has improved due to senior staff knowing the strengths and areas for improvement across the school. The high expectations of senior leaders are understood by all teaching and support staff and there is a strong spirit of team working. The governing body offers a high level of challenge to managers and leaders in all aspects of the school's work.

Effective support and challenge has been provided to the school by the School Improvement Partner. The school has also enjoyed some good support through a variety of important partnerships with local schools.

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

Mr David Martin
Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place on 11 January 2010

- Raise standards across the school through improvement in the quality of teaching and learning by:
 - giving staff the opportunity to share and build on existing outstanding practice
 - ensuring consistency in marking so that all pupils are aware of how to improve their work
 - planning tasks that require independent learning skills
 - developing the capacity of senior leaders and managers to monitor and evaluate teaching and learning.