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Mrs Susan Bostock
Acting Headteacher
Warton Nethersole's CofE Primary School
Maypole Road
Warton
Tamworth
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Dear Mrs Bostock

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Warton Nethersole's CofE Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 14 July 2011, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please also pass on my thanks to the pupils and to the Chair of the Governing Body.

During my visit, I noted several staff changes since the last inspection. Following the retirement of the headteacher, the senior teacher at the school has taken on the role of acting headteacher. In addition, one newly qualified teacher has been appointed and a part-time teacher at the school has left.

As a result of the inspection on 12 November 2009, 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.

Attainment in 2010 was similar to that seen in 2009, with attainment in English and mathematics being broadly in line with age-related expectations, with standards in English edging ahead of those in mathematics. End of year assessments for 2011 show that the majority of pupils in the current Year 6 have made good progress from their starting points and have attained standards in English and mathematics that are just above age-related expectations.

The quality of teaching has improved and observations made during this inspection found it to be good in all lessons. A strong feature of the teaching seen was the level

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of pupil engagement with their learning. In one strong lesson, pupils were required to explain their ideas and make choices, as they worked together, about how to record their first-hand experiences of a recent school trip. This was particularly effective because it required them to evaluate the features of different types of writing and provided them with a meaningful context to practise and develop their skills. Consequently, pupils were motivated, enthused and engaged throughout the lesson and made good progress.

Conversations with pupils, and work in their books, provide additional evidence that opportunities to write across the curriculum have increased. However, the quality of feedback to pupils through marking is variable which means that pupils do not always get helpful guidance about how to improve their written work.

A multicultural week and links with a school in Walsall provide examples of the actions the school has taken to increase pupils' awareness of the diversity of Britain. On the day of the inspection, one class was visiting a gurdwara. In another class, pupils were discussing their recent visit to a mosque. These visits serve to enrich the school's programme for religious education and form part of a long-term plan to increase pupils' interaction with other communities in Britain.

Senior staff now share responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of teaching across the school. In addition, the subject leaders for English and mathematics have worked with a specialist teacher in order to develop their lesson monitoring skills. As a result, there is a greater understanding of school development priorities and of the actions needed to bring about further improvements.

The acting headteacher has a well-informed and realistic view of the school's current performance. She is able to articulate a clear, and ambitious, vision for school improvement and has strengthened the school's systems for tracking pupils' progress. School leaders and governors regularly scrutinise data and use this information to hold teachers to account. The school's detailed records show that pupils are now making faster progress. This increased level of challenge, together with the helpful support received from the local authority and the Diocese, provides convincing evidence that the school's capacity for further improvement has been strengthened.

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

Martin Pye
Additional Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in November 2009

- Ensure that pupils make consistently good progress in their writing by:
 - providing them with more opportunities to write in subjects other than literacy
 - building on the enthusiasm generated by teachers during the introduction to tasks.

- Improve pupils' understanding of life in multicultural Britain by providing them with more opportunities to engage with others from different backgrounds

- Improve the systems for monitoring and evaluating the school's work, and thus the capacity to improve, by developing the role of middle managers in observing teaching so they are better equipped to identify areas for improvement.