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15 July 2011

Mr David Williams  
The Headteacher  
Chesterton Primary School  
Apsley Road  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 1SS

Dear Mr Williams

**Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Chesterton 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 pass on my thanks to the Chair of the Governing Body and to staff with whom I had meetings.

Since the time of the last inspection, a number of staff have left the school and have been replaced with permanent appointments.

As a result of the inspection on 15 and 16 October 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.

Children's attainment on entry to the school has fallen and is now slightly lower than that expected for their age. The rate of progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage has improved since the last inspection; the children currently in the Reception class have achieved standards that are higher than those expected for their age.

Attainment at the end of Year 6 is average overall but has been rising for the last



two years. Unvalidated results in the national tests in 2011 confirmed that pupils attained above-average standards in English and mathematics at the expected Level 4. Pupils of higher ability made good progress in mathematics, but not all those capable of achieving Level 5 in English did so. This was largely because their achievement in writing did not match their better progress in reading. Progress in writing has been slower to improve than other areas. Achievement overall at Key Stage 1 is not as secure as that in Key Stage 2. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities continue to make the good progress that they made at the time of the last inspection.

The school has improved resources in the Early Years Foundation Stage and is using them to better effect. There is now a clearly defined outside area with better resources and well-conceived plans for further development. Changes to the inside classroom have also been completed and the area is more welcoming. There are now better opportunities for more creative learning in both spaces, leading to rising achievement. The local authority has provided good support in improving the provision and outcomes in this area.

Leaders and managers have taken effective steps to increase the proportion of good teaching in the school. Although some inconsistencies remain, improvements in the overall quality are leading to better achievement. Assessment information is gathered regularly and robust data are now used well to track the progress of classes, groups and individual pupils closely. Teachers and teaching assistants are now more adept at modifying their planning to match the pupils' learning needs. They have also appreciated the opportunities to observe each other's lessons and share their expertise. However, opportunities to consolidate and extend the pupils' writing skills in subjects across the curriculum have not yet been fully implemented.

Middle leaders have a clearer role in taking forward the school's improvement plans. Regular meetings with senior leaders with clear agendas that focus on school improvement have raised their expectations, improved their expertise and created a more collaborative approach to leadership throughout the school. Teachers speak highly of the closer focus on school improvement that now characterises staff meetings. Planning has improved and monitoring and evaluation are more rigorous, with middle leaders working regularly with senior leaders to check progress against measurable targets. The school has achieved much since the last inspection and understands the requirements of the task ahead.

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

Andrew Harrett  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**



## Annex

### **The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in October 2009**

- Provide more opportunities for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage to make more effective use of the learning environment.
- Ensure the good practice in teaching is promoted throughout the school by:
  - encouraging teachers to use assessment information more consistently to raise expectations and challenge all groups of pupils
  - giving staff more opportunities to share and build on good practice
  - focusing on consolidating and extending pupils' writing skills in other subjects.
- Enhance the effectiveness of middle managers by:
  - revising their subject plans so that actions, targets and how their success will be measured are clear
  - clarifying the role of middle managers and increasing their responsibility for promoting school improvement.

