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27 September 2012

Mr Andy Simpson
Headteacher
Noremarsh Community Junior School
Clarendon Drive
Swindon
SN4 8BT

Dear Mr Simpson

Notice to improve: monitoring inspection of Noremarsh Community Junior School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 26 September 2012 and for the information which you provided during the inspection. Please thank the staff, advisory headteacher and the pupils who gave up their time to speak to me.

Since the previous inspection, one teacher has returned to a part-time post after maternity leave and the school has welcomed a new Year 6 teacher, the school has also welcomed another part time teacher.

As a result of the inspection on 25 January 2012, 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 is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievement.

Staff have successfully raised pupils' achievement, especially in English. They have consistently higher expectations of all pupils and set them challenging targets. Pupils are clear about the steps they need to take to reach them. Work is promptly marked and pupils are given time to respond to the consistent and helpful guidance on how to improve. They also have more opportunities to evaluate each other's work and to take responsibility for their own learning by using their 'success ladders'.

National test results were markedly improved in 2012; unvalidated figures show a larger proportion of pupils successfully reaching the advanced Level 5 in English, and there was also success at Level 6 in mathematics. The results exceeded the school's

predictions. In Years 3–5, both boys and girls now increasingly make the expected levels of progress. Current Year 6 pupils still have some legacy of underachievement in their writing to overcome. Year 3 pupils have made a good start in the school, building quickly on their previous skill level.

The senior management team is effectively driving improvement. Almost all lessons observed were good or better, although not all teachers could be seen due to the job share classes and one absence. The school's monitoring of teaching is detailed and accurate. Staff act on development points and increasingly adopt good strategies to maximise learning in their faster paced classes. They have benefited from the high-quality support and rigorous evaluation given by the advisory headteacher and the local authority. This has significantly helped the school. The detailed statement of action assists the governors to regularly check on the school's progress. The enhanced pupil tracking system is now being used effectively to monitor the progress of different groups and, if any are in danger of falling behind, they are promptly identified and assisted by appropriately matched work for their needs.

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

Mo Roberts

Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in January 2012

- Raise pupils' attainment and accelerate their progress, especially in Years 3 to 5 and in English by:
 - ensuring that teachers set consistently higher expectations of what pupils should achieve
 - improving the consistency of guidance to pupils about how to improve their work, particularly in marking, so that it regularly indicates the next steps in their learning making more rigorous use of learning targets.
- By December 2012, raise to at least 80% the proportion of good and better teaching, by:
 - making sure that lessons are consistently well paced and make good use of time
 - ensuring that all groups of pupils, especially boys and the more able, are challenged by tasks that are well matched to their learning needs and make good or better progress in their learning.
- Ensure greater impact from the school's self-evaluation activities through:
 - a sharper focus on judging the impact of teaching on pupils' learning and progress when leaders monitor lessons
 - communicating what teachers need to do to improve pupils' progress
 - improved use of the school's tracking information in order to monitor more effectively the extent of progress made by different groups of pupils.