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12 November 2012

Headteacher
Ludwell Community Primary School
Ludwell
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 9ND

Dear Mrs Evans

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Ludwell Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on Monday 12 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. A meeting was held with a middle leader who is attending an improving schools programme with the headteacher. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A joint observation of the Upper Key Stage 2 class was carried out with the headteacher. A meeting was held with a group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils with their English books to look at their progress in writing. A document prepared by the headteacher on the impact of actions taken so far against the areas for improvement was discussed with the headteacher.

Context

There are no changes since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

The headteacher is leading school improvement with energy and drive. She ensures that monitoring of teaching and learning is now rigorous. She has a committed team who welcome her advice and support and this is improving their teaching. The focus on what pupils are learning and why has been particularly effective. The local authority has quickly supported the headteacher in putting together an appropriate action plan. Staff are fully involved in checking the effectiveness of actions taken. The headteacher expects all staff to contribute to getting the school to good, and they do with enthusiasm. The headteacher and a middle leader are attending the local authority school improvement programme. This has raised the leadership profile of the middle leader. She now supports the two other class teachers with their lesson planning and teaching. Governors show clear purpose in their drive to make this a good school. They check teaching through discussions with teachers, visiting classes and talking to pupils in lessons. Governors are hugely supportive of the work that the school does. They also challenge the headteacher to explain how actions being taken link the performance management of staff to improving pupils' achievement.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- further develop how pupils assess their progress against their targets in lessons, such as reporting back to one another about how well they are doing in moving up to the next level in their work
- include in the school development action plan, where appropriate, evidence from monitoring and evaluation that is measureable, for example related to pupils' progress
- strengthen the perspective governors have on how well pupils are learning, by enabling them to meet regularly with groups of upper Key Stage 2 pupils to find out their views on the progress they are making against the level of work being set.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The school is using the expertise from local authority well to draw up and put a strategic action plan into operation. Training from the local authority is well focused on helping staff to get their teaching to good. It focuses on pupils' understanding of what they are learning and why and helps teachers make this explicit to pupils. The governing body is participating in the same training programme for improving schools and so there is a clear and joined up approach in the direction of school improvement.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Wiltshire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Jane Neech

Her Majesty's Inspector