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Mr Shaun Farrington
Headteacher
Burford Primary and Nursery School
Oxclose Lane
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 6FX

Dear Mr Farrington

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Burford Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 20 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 and the Chair of the Governing Body. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority. The school development plan was evaluated. The inspector also met with a group of pupils who took him on a tour of the school.

Context

There have been no significant changes to staffing or changes in the school's status since the last inspection.

Main findings

School leaders are demonstrating a strong determination to improve the school. The headteacher and other school leaders have successfully revised and improved the

school's improvement plan. The plan addresses all issues raised by inspectors at the time of the last inspection. Actions in the plan are tied closely to the impact they are expected to have on improving the quality of teaching and in accelerating pupils' learning and progress. However, the arrangements for who will check actions, how they will do it and when they will do it, are not always made clear.

The governing body is developing an understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. However, they recognise that there is a need for governors to become more involved in checking the work of the school. They need to build their knowledge and understanding to enable them to increase the level of challenge they offer to school leaders.

Leaders are beginning to address weaknesses they have identified in teaching and have made it clear to each teacher the next steps they must take to improve their practice. A broad range of development opportunities, relevant to the school's needs, have been planned for staff to support the development of their skills.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take 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 sharpen the school's action plans to include clear arrangements for checking the impact that leaders' actions are making on accelerating pupils' progress
- ensure that the governing body, working alongside school leaders, check the impact of the school's actions on pupils' improved progress more rigorously and provide further challenge to school leaders.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. The HMI will visit the school again in the Spring Term 2013 to check the impact the school's leaders are having on improving the quality of teaching and in accelerating pupils' progress.

External support

The school has worked effectively with the local authority to improve the quality of the school development plan. Firm plans have been made to draw on further support to continue to develop the quality of practice in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottingham City local authority.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector