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10 December 2012

Simon Dix  
Executive headteacher  
The Oaks Primary School  
Bells Lane  
Druids Heath  
Birmingham  
B14 5RY

Dear Mr Dix

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to The Oaks Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 7 December 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 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the executive headteacher, the new headteacher, other senior leaders, representatives from the governing body, a representative of the local authority, and a group of pupils. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A range of documentation was reviewed, including minutes from governing body meetings and teachers' individual action plans.

### **Context**

Since the previous inspection, the governing body has appointed a new headteacher. He will join the school in January 2013. A new teacher and a teaching assistant have also been appointed.

## **Main findings**

School leaders and staff have worked together to amend the school improvement plan. The actions that will be taken to raise pupils' achievement, and further improve the quality of teaching and leadership and management are appropriate. The plan has measurable success criteria but does not make clear who will evaluate the impact of the school's actions.

The systems for monitoring the progress pupils make have improved. Senior leaders now check the progress of all pupils each half term. They are using this information well to identify pupils who are at risk of underachieving and providing them with targeted support. The executive headteacher has strengthened the systems for managing the performance of staff. Each teacher has an individual action plan which specifies what they need to do to improve their teaching and to help pupils make good progress.

Members of the governing body have responded positively to their recent training from the local authority and the executive headteacher. They now have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and of pupil progress data. Governors acknowledge that they need to check more regularly the impact the school is having on pupils' learning.

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:

- ensure that the school improvement plan states who will evaluate the impact of the school's actions
- work with the local authority to further develop the role of governors.

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

## **External support**

The local authority in partnership with a number of local schools continues to provide effective support. Some teachers have already participated in an 'improving teacher programme,' and more will be taking part next year. The executive headteacher has started to develop links with staff from his school and The Oaks Primary in order to strengthen teachers' practice. This is helping to improve the quality of teaching. An external consultant has begun to work with the teacher responsible for leading English. The executive headteacher will continue working with the new headteacher next term. In order to help the school move quickly towards good, the local authority will be reviewing the progress of the school, including the work of the governing body next term.

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

Yours sincerely

Usha Devi

**Her Majesty's Inspector**