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11 December 2012

Mrs Christer and Mrs Regnard  
Co-headteachers  
The Vale Primary School  
84-92 Beaconsfield Road  
Langley Vale  
Epsom  
KT18 6HP

Dear Mrs Christer and Mrs Regnard

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

Following my visit to your school on 11 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 September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

**Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteachers, other senior leaders, the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority. Groups of pupils were spoken to informally. The school development plan has been evaluated. The HMI was given a tour of the school to look at teaching and learning and the changes made to classrooms since the last inspection.

**Context**

The senior leadership structure has been reviewed resulting in a new leader for the core subjects of English and mathematics. The governing body has been reorganised, resulting in a reduction of members. There are thirteen members as opposed to fifteen to allow for a leaner governing body to carry out more specific duties.

## **Main findings**

The headteachers are tackling the areas for improvement with a general sense of urgency. Good actions have been identified in the school development plan which addresses the areas for improvement from the last inspection. There has been extensive analysis of what is required to improve pupils' progress in mathematics and strengthen leadership and management at all levels. The improvements in the teaching of mathematics and the associated curriculum are increasing the interest of pupils. There are improvements in the classroom environment with age related mathematics wall displays that pupils use. There are early indications that pupils are making faster progress in this subject. A faster pace is required for some actions as the monitoring of some tasks is not regular enough. This includes whether pupils' have improved the presentation of their work. Appropriate analysis and action planning has also been undertaken to strengthen school leaders, managers and governors' ability to review pupils' progress. However, there are instances when actions do not hold the subject leaders to account and the responsibility for areas of school improvement has not been distributed beyond the headteachers.

Members of the governing body are appropriately challenging and supporting the headteachers and the senior team. The improved review of school improvements is developing the governors' ability to act as critical friends, but there are some aspects that require monitoring on a more regular basis such as the improvements in teaching and mathematics.

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:

- Revise the development plan to ensure that senior leaders implement timely milestones to assess the impact in all areas of their work.
- Ensure that governors monitor regularly all key priorities of the development plan and the results of their findings are reported back to the full governing body.

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

## **External support**

The support by the local authority has helped senior leaders and the governing body ask the right questions to assess what is required to move the school on further. The regular review of the school's work is having good impact on contributing towards building middle leadership capacity and assessing the impact of the school's actions.

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

Yours sincerely

**Samantha Morgan-Price**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**