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13 December 2012

Mrs A Hamilton
Headteacher
Beck Row Primary School
Beck Row
Bury St Edmunds
IP28 8AE

Dear Mrs Hamilton

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

Following my visit to your school on 12 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 3 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, three members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, the teacher of Year 5 has resigned. His class will be taught by the deputy headteacher on a full time basis from January 2013. A new teacher will replace the teacher of Year 1 and 2 who leaves at the end of this term.

Main findings

Senior leaders accept that the outcomes and priorities from the recent inspection are the right ones, and have taken action to resolve them. They have acted promptly to:

- train staff on what outstanding teaching looks like, and agreeing non-negotiables for all classrooms
- provide coaching and mentoring for staff to help them learn from their colleagues
- check the progress made by pupils in lessons, and the impact teaching is having on their learning
- work with other schools in the local area, including a local outstanding school to share good practice
- update improvement plans to include all areas for improvement.

Governors are keen to support the school's drive for improvement and develop their role in holding school leaders to account. They have:

- weekly meetings with the headteacher to review improvement plans
- updated policies to improve teaching and learning, and assessment
- checked pupils' work in books and teachers' marking
- attended training to review the effectiveness of the Governing Body and identify future training needs.

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:

- provide further training for all governors on the use of performance data to drive improvements
- prepare long-term plans to maintain the school's capacity to improve in the likelihood of members of staff leaving the school.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. The school anticipates some staffing changes in the near future. HMI will meet with the local authority in the spring term 2013 to check the school's progress made towards becoming a good school.

External support

The local authority provides support to improve the monitoring of teaching and management of data. They have brokered links with a local national leader in education to enable staff to benefit from the outstanding practice in his school.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector