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16 January 2013

Mrs S Lanni
Headteacher
Pheasey Park Farm Primary School
Wimperis Way
Birmingham
B43 7LH

Dear Mrs Lanni

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Pheasey Park Farm Primary School

Following my visit to your school on Tuesday 15 January 2013, 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 headteacher, other senior leaders, a representative of the local authority, the Chair of the Governing Body and two other governors. The school improvement action plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the last inspection, a substantive headteacher has been appointed and, following regular visits to the school, formally took up office at the start of this term. The previous acting headteacher has returned to her role as deputy headteacher. The phase leader for Years 1 and 2 is currently taking maternity leave. The school is advertising seven new appointments including that of the phase leader for Years 3 and 4.

Main findings

Following the last inspection, plans for improvement were swiftly put into place and acted upon. They include all the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection, key staff and time-scales for actions. However, the plans do not have regular checks on pupils' achievement to enable the school's leaders and the governing body to be sure that pupils are on course to make the rapid progress necessary.

Since her appointment, the new headteacher has built effectively on the improvements made by the acting headteacher. She has communicated a clear vision for the school based firmly on raising pupils' achievement through improving teaching. A new school logo, 'Believe and Achieve', symbolises the renewed determination for the school to become good or outstanding at the next inspection. In-school training, support from the local authority and visits to other schools are helping teachers and leaders to improve their skills.

Some governors have received training to enable them to hold the school to account through working with subject leaders. Plans are in place to improve the governing body's use of pupils' achievement data to help governors to monitor and evaluate the work of the school more effectively.

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 plans for improvement show regular checks on pupils' achievement
- the governing body receives training to improve its use of pupils' achievement data to monitor and evaluate the work of the school.

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

External support

Since the last inspection, the local authority has supported the school well through visits from literacy and numeracy consultants, and the school improvement partner. Links with other local schools have provided additional support to improve teaching and the skills of some of the leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector