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Mrs Mary Thornton
Headteacher
Greystoke Primary School Narborough
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Dear Mrs Thornton

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

Following my visit to your school on 23 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 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, deputy headteacher and a representative of the governing body. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Minutes of governing body meetings and leaders' logs of activities to monitor the quality of teaching and learning were scrutinised.

Context

Since the last inspection the Chair of the Governing Body and two other governors have resigned from their posts. Two new staff governors have joined the governing body. The Vice-Chair of the Governing Body is currently acting as the Chair of the Governing Body. One teacher has returned to the school following maternity leave. The local authority schools advisory service will close at the end of March 2013. To replace this service, the headteacher and governors are developing a links with a school partnership programme. This has led to a partnership with a local primary

school, recognised for its strong practice, to support the school's improvement activities.

Main findings

Senior leaders have responded positively and quickly to the last inspection report and show a determination to improve the school to become good or outstanding. The school improvement plan has been suitably revised and there is a strong emphasis on addressing the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection. The plan includes appropriate actions and timescales. However, the school's targets for how much progress pupils should make in reading, writing and mathematics are over-ambitious. More realistic, but challenging targets were discussed and agreed with HMI during the visit and the school has agreed to amend the improvement plan by the end of January 2013 to reflect these.

The governing body has received suitable training to develop its understanding of how to monitor the work of the school more effectively. The school improvement plan makes clear how the governing body will check that the school's actions are driving improvement. However, it does not clearly state when these monitoring actions will take place, and who will lead them.

Leaders are developing a deeper understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in the school. They have observed colleagues' teaching, scrutinised pupils' work and assessed the quality of teachers' lesson plans. From these activities, leaders have successfully identified development points for each member of staff. Processes are being developed to ensure that leaders systematically check that staff address their development points and improve the quality of teaching.

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:

- strengthen the success criteria in the school improvement plan, by revising the targets for pupils' progress in reading, writing and mathematics to make them challenging but more realistic
- further sharpen the school improvement plan so that it highlights the governing body's monitoring activities more clearly, stating who will be leading each monitoring action and when
- submit the revised action plan to HMI by the end of January 2013.

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

External support

The local authority advisor has provided timely and appropriate support to the school since the last inspection. Training to explore the features of good teaching, and the

undertaking of joint lesson observations with senior leaders has been welcomed by staff. Effective support has also been provided to the governing body. The school's new learning partnership is at an early stage of development. An appropriate school support plan has been developed. The learning partnership has agreed to provide further support to the governing body to help develop governors' skills in interpreting data about pupils' achievement.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Spencer
Her Majesty's Inspector