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29 January 2013

Mrs E Sadler  
Headteacher  
Summerswood Primary School  
Furzehill Road  
Borehamwood  
WD6 2DW

Dear Mrs Sadler

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

Following my visit to your school on 28 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 10-11 October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, middle leaders with responsibility for literacy and numeracy, members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated alongside a range of other documentation and assessment information.

#### **Context**

There have been no changes to the staffing since the previous inspection. The school is currently moving into new buildings on the same site. There are currently two vacancies on the governing body.

#### **Main findings**

A detailed action plan provides an appropriate framework for school improvement. Priorities are closely linked to improving the achievement of all pupils in reading, writing and mathematics. Individual responsibilities for staff are clearly identified

within specific timescales to support performance management. Discussions with the headteacher and middle leaders confirm there is an appropriate focus on improving the quality of teaching and the achievement of pupils in all classes. Assessment data is used carefully to identify those pupils who are currently underperforming and target extra support more closely to their individual needs. All staff with a leadership role participate in the monitoring of learning activity within their areas of responsibility. Senior staff monitor the quality of lessons regularly. However, these observations, although detailed, are not closely linked to the new Teachers' Standards or criteria for school inspection. This limits the impact of this monitoring in tackling inconsistencies and performance of teachers in the classroom.

Middle leaders demonstrate the necessary skills and capacity to improve the progress pupils make in English and mathematics since the last inspection. For instance, the teaching of the sounds pupils need to know in order to read has been restructured in Key Stage 1 and evaluation based on the analysis of data and listening to pupils' views has led to the more effective grouping of older pupils for mathematics. Governors have undertaken several focused visits into school since the previous inspection. The findings of these are recorded and shared with the full governing body.

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:

- ensure that teaching and learning be monitored rigorously against the new Teachers' Standards and criteria from the school inspection handbook.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. HMI recommends that a further monitoring visit takes place alongside school leaders to review the quality of teaching and learning across the school.

### **External support**

The local authority provides appropriate levels of support and guidance to staff and governors. A local authority improvement officer maintains close overview of the school to ensure that it quickly tackles the key issues from the inspection in order to secure the necessary improvements in pupil achievement

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

Yours sincerely

Philip Mann  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**