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26 January 2013

Mr M Narraway  
Headteacher  
Bude Junior School  
Broadclose  
Bude  
EX23 8DR

Dear Mr. Narraway

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 to Bude Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 25 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, subject leaders and representatives of the governing body. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority. The school's action plans were evaluated.

### **Context**

The chair of governors took up post in October 2012, and two new governors were appointed at the start of the academic year. The school is now part of the Bude Schools' Communities Co-operative Trust.

### **Main findings**

The headteacher and deputy headteacher are checking the quality of teaching with care. They regularly observe lessons, check on teachers' planning and discuss with

pupils how well they are progressing. As a result, they are well aware of the strengths in teaching and what needs to be improved. Since the recent inspection, senior leaders have raised expectations with staff about what pupils can achieve. Ambitious targets for each pupil's progress have been agreed and teachers are clear about their shared responsibility for raising standards. Middle leaders are increasingly involved in setting and discussing these targets with individual teachers. They are beginning to take a role in making sure teaching is up to standard and in advising colleagues on how to develop their work.

The school has revised its action plans to ensure they address the areas for improvement identified at the recent inspection. There is a clear focus on how actions being taken will impact on pupils' learning. Plans to improve the teaching of reading and mathematics make clear how the school intends to help less confident pupils in particular, develop their knowledge of phonics (the sounds that letters make) and their number calculations skills. However, the plans do not make clear enough how teachers will be supported to introduce the new initiatives that are planned.

The governing body is taking steps to increase the role it plays in checking on the school's work. Governors are committed to improving the school and they regularly visit lessons to find out about the school's work to improve teaching. Nonetheless, their understanding of how best to hold the school fully to account remains under-developed.

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:

- make clear in action plans the ways in which the school will help teachers put in place new approaches to teaching
- support subject leaders in their work to observe and advise colleagues about their teaching, especially in mathematics
- set up an external review of the governing body, in order to identify and address the governors' training needs.

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

### **External support**

The local authority continues to provide effective support. A local leader of education is supporting the headteacher and deputy headteacher in checking on progress with the plans during the year. The local authority has made available useful consultancy advice to teachers as they introduce new approaches to supporting less confident

pupils with their reading. There is further scope, and plans in place for, the local authority to provide training for subject leaders and the governing body.

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

Yours sincerely

David Townsend  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**