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15 March 2013

Mrs Alison Townsend
Headteacher
Emneth Primary School
Hollycroft Road
Emneth
Wisbech
PE14 8AY

Dear Mrs Townsend

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

Following my visit to your school on 15 March 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 on 8 November 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, teachers and other adults who help in the classroom, the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and a community governor and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan was evaluated. HMI spent a short time in every classroom with the headteacher.

Context

Since the inspection one long-term supply teacher has left the school and a new one has started.

Main findings

The school has taken immediate action to make improvements since the last inspection. The action plan targets are closely linked to the improvement points identified in the inspection report. As a result, staff and governors know and understand the action plan and talk with enthusiasm about the progress that they

and the school have made. The headteacher has inspired staff to believe they can make the changes needed. One teacher said. 'It's the way she manages us. We really believe we can do it.' Since the inspection the headteacher has observed all teachers and teaching assistants twice formally, and on many occasions through informal drop-in to every classroom. Teachers' targets are now linked to the school improvement plan, and the pupil progress meetings that happen twice a term make sure teachers know they are responsible for the progress pupils make in their classes. The school provides extra help for pupils who are behind in their learning. These programmes are reviewed every six weeks and changed if this will help the pupil learn better. For example the scaffolding of writing approach for Key Stage 1 pupils has helped those who took part make above-average progress in a short space of time. The deputy headteacher observes teaching and is helping the headteacher to improve teaching and pupils' learning. More training is planned for those teachers with a responsibility for different subjects. Some work has been done to improve marking. The school recognises that there is more to be done on this.

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 recommends that further action is taken to:

- strengthen initiatives being undertaken by the school, with a particular focus on helping pupils to take more responsibility for their learning.

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

External support

The school is using the support of the local authority attendance officer well to deter parents from taking holidays during term time. The local authority improvement partner has visited the school and recognises the speedy action the headteacher and governors have taken to make improvements. The local professional partner headteacher continues to give good support and advice to the school. The headteacher greatly values the ideas she has given to improve the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Julie Winyard
Her Majesty's Inspector