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Gillian Thomas  
Westwood Community Junior School  
Maple Grove  
March  
PE15 8JT

Dear Mrs Thomas

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Westwood Community Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 25 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 in December 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority. I evaluated the school's plans for improvement, and spoke to pupils about the new reading club.

#### **Context**

Since the inspection, the acting deputy headteacher has been appointed as the substantive deputy headteacher. The governors and the headteacher are actively seeking to recruit an assistant headteacher to strengthen the leadership team.

#### **Main findings**

The senior leadership and the governing body are tackling weaknesses with determination. They are using a number of strategic and operational plans to achieve their key priorities. Actions are relevant and the governors check progress at regular intervals. However, some success criteria are not sufficiently precise. In addition, the monitoring activities are not distinct from the evaluation process. This

makes the effectiveness of the plan more difficult to ascertain. The induction plan to support newly qualified teachers is fit for purpose.

The literacy and numeracy leaders are taking effective action to improve the quality of teaching and pupils' work in their subjects. They are raising staff expectations for the standards children need to achieve in all year groups. The reading club for the more-able readers is successful and pupils value this new opportunity. Staff appreciate the training provided by the local authority in mathematics. To date, action to allow pupils to apply their mathematics skills in other subjects has been limited.

The English target set by the school for pupils' achievement at the end of Year 6 is not challenging enough. In addition, no targets have been set for the proportions of pupils likely to make better than expected progress by the end of Key Stage 2.

The senior leadership team has identified accurately where teaching is at its best and performance management is rigorous. A small team of governors, the Ofsted Action Force, is ensuring that the governing body has the necessary information to verify the effectiveness of action plans.

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:

- raise expectation further by setting targets for the number of pupils making more than expected progress in all years and increasing the targets set in reading and writing
- improve the effectiveness of plans by clarifying success criteria and separating monitoring activities from the evaluation process
- take action to improve pupils' use of mathematics skills across subjects.

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

### **External support**

The local authority is working well with the headteacher to provide support and challenge to the school. Newly qualified teachers have access to a good induction programme and helpful local networks.

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

Yours sincerely

Marianick Ellender-Gelé  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**