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11 June 2013

Paul Arch  
Headteacher  
Piper's Vale Community Primary School  
Raeburn Road  
Ipswich  
IP3 0EW

Dear Mr Arch

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Piper's Vale Community Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 10 June 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, I met with you and your deputy headteacher, the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan was evaluated. A brief visit to all classrooms gave me the opportunity to observe pupils' learning.

### **Context**

Since the last inspection one teacher has left the school. Three newly appointed teachers, including a subject leader of mathematics, will join the school next term. The school is currently interviewing internally to appoint two assistant headteachers for September 2013 to strengthen the school's capacity to improve further.

### **Main findings**

You have responded promptly to the issues raised in the last inspection. You know the school's strengths and weaknesses. Suitable plans for improvement rightly prioritise increasing the amount of good or better teaching and raising achievement

in reading and mathematics. Teachers, including those with responsibilities for leading and managing subjects and Key Stages, have been set personal targets to improve their performance. Lesson observations, regular pupil progress meetings and scrutinies of their work are helping you to monitor the impact of teaching on pupils' learning and progress. New appointments made for September 2013 provide further opportunity to strengthen the overall quality of teaching.

The governing body, chaired by a retired headteacher, is keen to contribute to making the school a good one. Governors understand how to use performance data to hold senior leaders to account for the performance of teachers and the achievement of pupils.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. The school should take further action to:

- thoroughly review the actions listed in the school's improvement plans to gauge what difference they are making and record what else needs to be done to raise achievement further
- involve parents in the plans you have to provide their children with a good education and encourage all of them take an active role in helping them to achieve their very best.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

### **External support**

You have forged good links with a high-performing inner-city school in London to learn from their outstanding practice. These links include opportunities for whole-school staff training and development from the start of next term. The school has welcomed the support and advice provided by the local authority, in particular the regular monitoring visits made by an improvement adviser and the additional support brokered in English and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Since notifying the school of its concerns in 2012 the local authority has reduced its intensive support as the school begins to demonstrate its capacity for self-improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**