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7 June 2013

Mary Ashcroft and Gary Pilkington
Headteachers
Claydon Primary School
Lancaster Way
Claydon
Ipswich
IP6 0DX

Dear Mr Pilkington and Mrs Ashcroft

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Claydon Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 7 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 30 January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, I met with both of you and another senior leader, 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 two teachers have left the school. Four newly appointed teachers including an assistant headteacher with responsibility for mathematics will join the school next term.

Main findings

Both of you have shared your vision for improving the school. Teachers have been set personal targets to improve their performance and provided with additional training and support. You are observing lessons and are working with advisory staff

from the local authority to validate your findings. Recent observations show an increase in the amount of good teaching.

Detailed plans to raise achievement by improving the quality of teaching and leadership and management of the school have been put in place. The monitoring and evaluation of these plans and the progress made by pupils have been strengthened and are much more systematic. The appointment of a new senior leader next term provides further capacity to lead improvements. Governors have engaged in additional training to increase their understanding of performance data and are using assessment information to challenge senior leaders to drive improvements within the timescales set in the school's improvement plan.

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:

- carry out further observations and drop-ins of lessons to check systematically that the weaknesses in teaching noted at the time of the last inspection are being tackled by all teachers
- take the opportunity towards the end of this academic year to clean and enliven areas of the school to provide pupils with a rich, vibrant and stimulating environment in which to learn
- consider further ways of sharing its ambitions with parents, to encourage many more of them take an active role in helping children 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

The advice and support provided by the local authority are helping senior leaders to gauge whether their plans for developing the school are leading to improvement at a sufficient rate. The local authority has also brokered stronger links with other local schools to enable teachers to learn from their good practice, and provided suitable training to strengthen the school's governance.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for insert local authority name and as below.

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector