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18 June 2013

Mr Neil Butler  
Headteacher  
Thorne Green Top Primary School  
Middlebrook Lane  
Thorne  
Doncaster  
DN8 5LB

Dear Mr Butler

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Thorne Green Top Primary School, Doncaster**

Following my visit with Tanya Harber Stuart Her Majesty's Inspector to your school on 17 June 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.

#### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, other senior leaders, the vice-chair of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school improvement plan, other documents and a sample of pupils' work were evaluated. The headteacher took HMI on a tour of the school.

#### **Context**

There are four new teachers joining the school in September 2013. A local authority governor will join the governing body in July 2013. The school has an increasing roll with 13 new pupils joining since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

Since the last inspection the headteacher and the governors have tackled the areas for improvement with enthusiastic rigour. They have considered key actions carefully, producing a well thought through improvement plan. The result of actions taken is improving teaching, rising attainment and ensuring better pupil progress. Individual support is provided for teachers who are not yet good and lesson observations in May 2013 showed more teaching and learning was good or better than in March. Plans are in place to develop teaching assistants so they have a more sharply focussed role in supporting teaching and learning especially in mathematics.

Appropriate training is in place to develop the teaching of mathematics so it becomes good and outstanding. Planning scrutiny shows planning is thorough, linked to pupil progress and includes some questioning which challenges more able pupils. Work scrutiny shows evidence of more recording of work completed in mathematics lessons but there is still work to be done in improving pupils' presentation in their mathematics books.

Leadership and management of mathematics are improving as the result of a systematic approach to monitoring lessons and pupil progress. The gap between pupils eligible for pupil premium and others is narrowing.

A focus on the curriculum has successfully raised the profile of, and engagement in, mathematics. There has been a successful 'maths week' which involved pupils and parents developing their mathematical skills and enjoyment of the subject. Pupil voice indicates this was a very engaging week.

Governors monitor the progress of the improvement plan and its impact at bi-weekly meetings. They ask challenging questions linked to the areas for improvement. Governors will attend training about analysing data in July 2013 and they have taken a proactive approach to planning shared training with other local schools for next year. The review of governance is underway.

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:

- consolidate the actions to improve teaching and learning and leadership in mathematics
- take rigorous action to improve pupils' presentation in their mathematics books so that work is set out methodically and neatly
- make sure plans to induct, and develop, new members of staff enable them to understand the expectations in mathematics so the speed of improvement does not slow down.

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 headteacher has brokered appropriate external support from other local schools which is impacting positively on improvement. Consultants have been employed to conduct the review of governance. The local authority continues to have a light touch. The school improvement advisor has assisted in the writing of the effective plan.

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

Yours sincerely

Helen Lane

**Her Majesty's Inspector**