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8 July 2013

Miss Penny Bennett  
Headteacher  
High Ongar Primary School  
The Street  
High Ongar  
Ongar  
CM5 9NB

Dear Miss Bennett

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to High Ongar Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 5 July 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 April 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with you and other senior leaders, members of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school's action plan, records of visits by governors and by the local authority. I examined the school's progress information for pupils and groups of pupils.

### **Main findings**

Your action plan is clear and sets out a comprehensive and appropriate range of actions based on the Ofsted inspection report's areas for improvement. Your latest assessments for Year 6 pupils indicate that the proportion of pupils gaining Level 5 is significantly above average and represents a considerable advance on the last published results. The summary of progress across the school you showed me is impressive. In the few instances where pupils are not making more than expected

progress, they are most commonly found among pupils entitled to the pupil premium. Your key priority must be to raise the progress of pupils in that group to match the rest. This year your Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes, your Key Stage 1 outcomes and your Key Stage 2 writing assessments have been moderated. All the teachers' judgements were assessed as accurate. At Key Stage 1, results are above the national average in all subjects.

Governors are very well involved in monitoring the school. A wide range of governor visits have taken place since the inspection. There are good records of classroom observation and book monitoring by governors. You assess the quality of teaching now as consistently good. You recognised that provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was an area that needed a lot of improvement and this has been happening. The current EYFS teacher has reorganised the indoor and outdoor environment to help pupils learn better.

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

- ensure the improvements in EYFS continue and are sustained
- ensure that pupils entitled to the pupil premium make as good progress as other pupils.

I may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection. The exact nature of any support will be discussed with the local authority's quadrant commissioner following her visit on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### **External support**

The local authority has given effective and appropriate support. It has helped you improve EYFS provision. It has advised you on strengthening your action plan. It is planning a stock take day. You have attended an Ofsted requiring improvement conference.

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

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lyons  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**