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12 July 2013

Margaret Leverett  
Headteacher  
New Road Primary School  
New Road  
Whittlesey  
Peterborough  
PE7 1SZ

Dear Mrs Leverett

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to New Road Primary School**

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

### **Evidence**

During the visit, I held meetings with you, other senior leaders, two governors including the Chair of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority. A meeting was also held with a group of Year 5 pupils. The school improvement action plan was evaluated. I scrutinised a range of documents and joined you on brief visits to all classes.

### **Context**

One member of staff left at the end of the spring term 2013 and another will leave at the end of the summer term. The Vice Chair of the Governing Body has resigned. Two new teachers will start at the school in September 2013. The governing body

has begun to consult with parents and carers about a proposal for the school to become a multi academy trust with Park Lane Primary School and Nursery.

## **Main findings**

You, along with the deputy headteacher and representatives of the governing body are showing determination to raise standards and improve pupils' achievement so that these are at least good. In all discussions, the emphasis on improving teaching and raising achievement came through strongly. To improve teaching, especially in Years 1 to 4, leaders have been quick to use opportunities to work with the partner school to secure improvements. My discussions with pupils show that they are clear about learning objectives and staff pitch work at the right level of difficulty for them. They say that other adults help them to be more independent. Your own observations of teaching and learning support these views. Suitable training for teaching assistants is making sure that they are clear about how to support pupils.

The local authority has carried out a review of governance has been carried out. It was thorough and governors are carrying out the recommendations made, particularly to make sure that they hold leaders to account for pupils' achievement. To this end, the local authority is planning further training for governors in the autumn term, for example in understanding how well pupils are doing and how teaching is contributing to it. The governing body membership has been reduced, anticipating that there will be no vacancies from the start of the new academic year.

Pupils from the school council have observed some lessons and provided feedback. Both pupils and teachers are finding this is shining a light on learning and how it to improve it further. Leaders' observations of lessons concentrate on the learning taking place. Agreed development points for teachers focus clearly on improving pupils' progress further. You are strengthening the curriculum so that pupils are finding learning more interesting, for example by linking topics to visits to local places. Pupils' own suggestions for topics in the autumn term are being considered to help make learning livelier.

Your tracking of pupils' progress is strong. It currently indicates that pupils in Year 6 have made at least expected progress in reading, writing and mathematics. The predictions are that many more of them will also make better than expected progress. The school improvement plan clearly deals with all of the areas identified in the last inspection. There are suitable, measurable success criteria to help check progress and impact on pupils' achievement. A longer term improvement plan, from 2013 to 2015, is in the process of being drawn up.

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:

- make sure that the appointment of new teachers from September this year continues to contribute to the pace of improvements in teaching and pupils' progress
- include in the school improvement plan how governors will carry out their responsibilities and identify the evidence that will show success in holding leaders to account.

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**

Local authority advisers have carried out a helpful review of governance so that governors are now much better informed about their roles and responsibilities. The school's link with Park Lane Primary school is proving to be helping in improving teachers' planning and teaching. The primary adviser visit to support and moderate teachers' checking of pupils' progress has sharpened up practice. This is making sure that underachievement is tackled quickly.

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

Yours sincerely

Dilip Kadodwala  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**