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19 July 2013

Mrs S Farrell  
Headteacher  
Abbots Farm Junior School  
Abbotts Way  
Rugby  
CV21 4AP

Dear Mrs Farrell

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Abbots Farm Junior School**

Following my visit to your school on 18 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 met with you and other senior leaders, pupils, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body, and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I evaluated the school action plan. We jointly visited lessons to observe teaching, check lesson planning and scrutinise pupils' work. I examined minutes of governing body meetings.

### **Main findings**

Teachers worked well to continue improving the aspects of teaching identified by the inspection in April. The inspection noted the recent positive impact of governors in taking a clear and collaborative role with you in improving all aspects of the school's provision. Your delegation of aspects of leadership to other senior staff, and your inclusion of all teachers in discussing improvement strategies has cemented a positive professional development culture. Lesson plans are accommodating the

range of prior attainment of pupils. Accurate, and concisely reported, pupil progress data is shared with teaching staff and governors. Pupils know how well they are doing, and what they should do for further improvement. Most of them are responding to the continually improving quality of written and verbal feedback by teachers. High standards including careful attention to presentation are emphasised by teachers. Pupils want to learn well, and want to improve; they are 'intrigued to find out what their teacher has put on their work'.

Senior leaders are closely involved in monitoring teaching quality, through lesson observations and work scrutiny. The staff as a whole are enjoying a fresh and imaginative approach to curriculum planning. This is generating very rich learning opportunities for pupils that they love. One key example is the 'home learning' work, which allows pupils to create a portfolio or model, or piece of art that researches a particular subject or theme. Pupils have risen to these challenges very well, creating imaginative responses that stretch their communication skills to the limit.

The records of recent governing body meetings are precise, professional and very clear summaries that focus on the school's prime function of teaching, and on how this is impacting on pupils' progress. Senior leaders present information in person to governors. Governors question the data and seek further detail on what is working well, and what needs improvement. As a result, standards are rising rapidly, particularly at the higher level 5 outcomes in Year 6. The school is well on track to becoming good at its next inspection

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

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 local authority has provided useful help in drafting the action plan, although that would further benefit from simple base-line measures of the current 'state' of the various teaching provision strands, such as the proportion of lessons that are planned to fully accommodate learners' needs. Local authority support has helped in quality assuring teacher assessments and the accuracy of the senior leadership team's judgments on teaching quality. Further external support is not necessary.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Warwickshire Local Authority and as below.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cartwright  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**