

Serco Inspections  
Colmore Plaza  
20 Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6AT

T 0300 123 1231  
Text Phone: 0161 6188524  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Direct T: 0121 679 9161  
Direct email: ann.morris@serco.com



30 September 2013

Mrs Pauline Lawrence  
Headteacher  
Martlesham Beacon Hill Primary School  
Black Tiles Lane  
Martlesham  
IP12 4SS

Dear Mrs Lawrence

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Martlesham Beacon Hill Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 27 September 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 June 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

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:

- strengthen the newly-implemented action plan by explaining fully the action to be taken to address each priority and by adding milestones to gauge how effectively the school is securing improvements
- focus lesson monitoring on those teachers and assistants who need the most help to improve.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you, six members of the governing body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. The school action plan was evaluated. A brief visit to all classrooms with you gave me the opportunity to observe pupils' learning.

## **Context**

Since the last inspection a new assistant headteacher and two new teachers have joined the school. One teacher is on short term sickness absence.

## **Main findings**

You have shared your vision for improving the school with staff and governors and put in place plans to help you achieve this. Senior leaders and governors feel that the issues raised in the last inspection relating to communication within school and between the school and parents are being resolved. This is enabling all staff to focus their attention on enabling the school to become a good one by improving their effectiveness and raising the achievement of all pupils.

Results in national tests in 2013 show that pupils continue to achieve well. High attainment has been maintained in Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, the proportion of Year 6 pupils meeting expectations in English and mathematics fell slightly but many more pupils exceeded national expectations in reading and in writing.

Action plans focus on the recommendations made in the inspection report. This includes aspirational targets set for improving teaching so that it is consistently good, but the timescale for achieving this is too short. Plans need additional milestones so senior leaders can measure improvements in teaching over time. An emerging partnership with other local primary schools is enabling teachers to visit other classrooms to observe good practice.

The outdoor area in the Early Years Foundation Stage has been significantly enhanced and now provides a safe and stimulating environment for children to play and learn. A newly qualified teacher is teaching children in the Reception class this year. The headteacher acknowledges that she will need intensive support to help her establish herself quickly and deliver the improvements to the Early Years Foundation Stage highlighted in the last inspection.

Members of the governing body talked positively about the improved morale in school and the renewed interest from parents seen in celebration assemblies and, informally, in the playground. Updating the school's website and improving weekly newsletters has increased communication with parents. An external review of governance has provided governors with a clear steer on improving their effectiveness. They have implemented plans to ensure that minutes of their meetings and visits to school are more explicit and show the level of challenge they provide for senior leaders. They have worked alongside the headteacher to formulate the school action plan. They understand their role in monitoring its impact, but the design of the document does not enable them to use it to record the challenge and support they provide for senior leaders

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**

Training provided for the governing body is helping to improve their organisation and effectiveness. Further support provided by the local authority is valued by the headteacher and a full review of the school's work has been arranged for later this term. The school continues to purchase additional support from an external adviser to help with target-setting and provide further challenge for senior leaders.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**