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18 December 2013

Mr Tony Mok  
Headteacher  
East Whitby Community Primary School  
Stainsacre Lane  
Whitby  
North Yorkshire  
YO22 4HU

Dear Mr Mok

**Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to East Whitby Community Primary School, North Yorkshire**

Following my visit to your school on 17 December 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.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in October 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:

- refine the school improvement plan and performance management targets to make clear the measures of success and how these will impact on pupils' progress
- make clear to teachers that judgements about teaching take into account the impact of classroom practice over time on pupils' progress
- establish links with a partner school to support you in improving teaching, leadership and governance further.

## **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with you and your assistant headteacher. Together we undertook a brief tour of the school and visited all classrooms. I met with members of the governing body and two representatives of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the last inspection. I also evaluated the school improvement plan and other monitoring evidence including performance management targets, lesson observation documents and monitoring files.

## **Context**

There have been no changes to context since the inspection.

## **Main findings**

Since the inspection you and your assistant headteacher have swiftly raised the profile of writing across the school. When we undertook our brief tour of the school the increased importance of writing was evident. In Early Years I saw opportunities for children to practice mark making and to sound out and practice new words. Children were given a sense of purpose to write including letters to Santa and describing what makes an effective nativity play. The profile of writing has also been raised across the school by now having school and class writers of the week.

Although staff were initially disappointed with the inspection outcomes, they now recognise that they are accurate. As one teacher commented "if teaching across the school was good then progress in writing would be better."

You and especially your assistant headteacher have carried out lesson observations, analyses of pupils' work and have highlighted aspects of teaching that need to improve. To increase the pace of improvement further you need to ensure that teachers are clear you are also judging teaching over time and any improvements need clear timescales.

The improvement plan does include all of the areas for improvement from the recent inspection. There have been some short term milestones very recently added to the plan to help you check whether you are on track to become a good school. However further clarity is needed as to exactly how and when improvements will be made over the course of the next 18-24 months. The plan would benefit from the greater involvement of governors and subject coordinators in making sure that actions have the intended impact on pupil outcomes.

Teachers have already visited some local primary schools. They have felt enthused and keen to improve their teaching. It would be advantageous for the school to be in a more formal partnership with a good or outstanding school to support your improvement journey. This would also help support the assistant headteacher who will be acting headteacher next term due to your retirement.

Performance management targets have also been very recently revised to include quantifiable targets for pupils' outcomes in writing. While this is a step in the right direction

more work is needed to ensure there are quantifiable teacher targets for other curriculum areas including reading and mathematics.

Governors are keen for the school to improve. Some parent governors have already noticed the raised profile of writing by the written work their children are bringing home with them. Governors are becoming increasingly aware of the key issues stopping the school from being good. They are growing in confidence in challenging you and other leaders over the rate of improvement the school is making. They are also now aware of the need to play a greater role in evaluating the progress the school is making in tackling those things that are stopping the school from being good.

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 is taking effective action so far to help the school tackle those areas that require improvement. It has provided the school with advice and guidance on the writing of the school improvement plan including the need for quantifiable targets. There has also been valuable support provided on data tracking, Early Years and support for a recently appointed SEN co-ordinator. The local authority is still in the process of brokering a partnership with a good or outstanding school but believe this will be in place by January 2014.

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

Yours sincerely

Phil Smith

**Her Majesty's Inspector**