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Mrs Vanessa Kingsley
Executive Headteacher
Murrayfield Community Primary School
Nacton Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP3 9JL

Dear Mrs Kingsley

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Murrayfield Community Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 14 January 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the findings. 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 September 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:

- ensure that the school improvement plan identifies all of the actions that the school needs to take in order to address the issues identified at the previous inspection, particularly in relation to improving teaching and learning
- clearly identify the role of middle leaders in improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school

Evidence

During the visit I met with you, the deputy headteacher, the vice-chair of the governing body and a representative from the local authority to discuss the action the school has taken since the last inspection. I also met with subject leaders to discuss their roles and I evaluated the school improvement plan, along with other documentation. I visited all classes to observe teaching and learning. During the afternoon I observed the teaching of reading to small groups of pupils. I also scrutinised samples of pupils' work from across the school.

Context

Since the previous inspection the headteacher has resigned. You became the executive headteacher on 1 January 2014. The governing body recently appointed a new headteacher, who will take up post in April 2014.

Main findings

School leaders and staff have acted promptly to address the weaknesses identified at the previous inspection and changes that have been implemented are already having a positive impact. For example, pupils are now reading books which provide appropriate levels of challenge and read regularly in small groups with their teachers. An extensive programme of professional development is also in place and appropriate targets have been set, in relation to pupils' achievement, across the school.

The school's improvement plan has some omissions. It is detailed and precise in describing how and when leaders will monitor progress and contains detailed targets for the expected progress and attainment of each year group. It is not as precise, however, in describing the actions that the school intends to take to raise achievement and the role of middle leaders in this process.

Governors have continued to play an active role in school life. Governors attending a recent training day, which focused on improving teaching and learning, found it extremely useful. The governing body has good systems for checking on the school's performance and governors are effective in holding school leaders to account for pupils' performance.

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 effective support to the school since the previous inspection. It worked closely with the governing body to secure your services and supported governors during the recruitment of the new headteacher. The local authority has also provided some support for subject leaders, in order to tackle the areas of teaching and learning that require improvement.

You have also commissioned support from other sources and have begun to develop links with the school where you are the substantive headteacher.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow
Her Majesty's Inspector