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Rachel Stroulger
Headteacher
Burnham Market Primary School
Friars Lane
Burnham Market
King's Lynn
PE31 8JA

Dear Mrs Stroulger

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Burnham Market Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 21 January 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in November 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and a member of the senior team, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body, a representative of the local authority, and a headteacher of a nearby school who supports the headteacher as system leader. The local authority's statement of action and the school's improvement plans were evaluated.

Context

Since the inspection, there have been no changes of staff. The governing body has discussed becoming an academy but there are no firm plans to begin this process.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

The headteacher has, in a short period of time since the inspection, strengthened existing practices, which were already demonstrating a good impact on pupils' learning and progress, and introduced new rigorous and robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching. In this she is well supported by her senior teacher and the governing body. Staff are determined to make the improvements identified by the inspection and are well supported by the local authority in general, and its advisers for literacy and mathematics in particular. The school also benefits from the effective support of a 'system leader', who enables teachers to share their ideas and experiences with teachers from his school and also from the local cluster group of schools.

Subject leaders are beginning to analyse information about pupils' progress more carefully and to use their findings sensibly to match lesson tasks more appropriately to the learning needs of pupils. As a consequence, school data indicates that pupils are making faster progress than prior to the inspection. All teaching assistants are being involved more effectively to support learning. The new marking policy is being embedded carefully so that comments in books are more consistently helpful in enabling pupils to understand how they can improve their work. New 'golden rules' have been introduced to create a more positive learning environment, and the curriculum is being enriched by a growing programme of visits to local places of interest and other schools.

The governing body is very aware of the developments taking place and is better at asking appropriately challenging questions about new developments and their impact. It supports the school well.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's improvement plans are fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, and the Director of Children's Services for Norfolk. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Peter Limm
Additional Inspector