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3 March 2014

Mrs Julie Carr  
Headteacher  
Lyneham Primary School  
Preston Lane  
Chippenham  
SN15 4QJ

Dear Mrs Carr

### **Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Lyneham Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 28 February 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 January 2014. 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 improvement plans are sharply focused on those activities that will accelerate pupil progress
- develop a more rigorous and systematic approach to the evaluation of teaching
- ensure the governing body are able to measure the impact of school improvement activities on outcomes for pupils.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, I met with you and the deputy headteacher to discuss the context of the school and your work since the inspection. You showed me around your school and explained your recent and planned developments. I met with the reading

and writing co-ordinators to discuss their action plans. I also met with the Chair and two other members of the Governing Body and a representative from the local authority. While at the school, I also considered a range of documents, including the school's self-evaluation, lesson observation notes, minutes of governing body meetings, school pupil progress data, reports from the school improvement partner and the school improvement plan.

## **Main findings**

The school has acted quickly to ensure it is well-placed to tackle the issues identified by the inspection. All school improvement plans have been revised and updated. Staff meetings and teachers' professional development have been aligned with the revised plans to focus actions on increasing the proportion of pupils that make expected progress and more than expected progress. There is a greater focus on the progress of more able pupils, particularly in Key Stage 1, and senior managers now provide the governing body with more information regarding the progress that pupils make. The way that teachers mark pupils' mathematics has been revised and a more systematic approach to the teaching of fundamental numeracy skills is being introduced.

Governors have a clear understanding of the findings of the inspection and are aware of the need to improve their own practice. Although they have a developing understanding of their role in monitoring school improvement they are not yet able to carry this out effectively. The governing body review, which is currently under way, is being provided by the local authority. There is a clear governor improvement plan in place and training is being accessed from the local authority.

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 school is making good use of the support available from the local authority. For example, in the support provided to the mathematics co-ordinator by the local authority advisor to strengthen the quality of marking in mathematics. The local authority intends to provide on-going training to the governing body to support their continued development.

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

Yours sincerely

Phillip Minns  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**