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Mr Richard Stanley
Headteacher
Blenheim Park Primary School
Lancaster Road
Sculthorpe
Fakenham
NR21 7PX

Dear Mr Stanley

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Blenheim Park Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 9 July 2014, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection 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 March 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 that improvement plans include ambitious, measurable targets to gauge the improvements made to the attainment and progress of more-able pupils.

Evidence

During the inspection, meetings were held with you, the Chair and Vice-chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the actions taken since the last inspection. The school improvement and development plan was evaluated. You shared with me the results achieved by pupils in this year's national tests. Walking the school with you gave me an opportunity to meet pupils and staff.

Context

Since the previous inspection, staffing has remained the same. An experienced teacher will return from maternity leave in September 2014. Three members of the governing body have resigned.

Main findings

You have responded to the issues raised in the previous inspection by updating the school's plans for improvement. These plans are suitably detailed and explain clearly what actions will be taken to improve the quality of teaching and to raise pupils' achievement. Clear, measurable targets are in place to gauge the improvements made to teaching and to overall achievement, but they do not include aspirational targets to raise the attainment and progress of more-able pupils in both key stages.

Some improvements to teaching have already been implemented. Teachers' marking now shows pupils the next steps they need to take to improve their work. Personal targets are shared with pupils so they understand the expectations teachers have of them.

Results in national tests have improved this year. In Key Stage 1, all 10 Year 2 pupils attained national expectations in reading and mathematics. Three of them exceeded expectations in reading. All pupils made two levels progress and three of them made more than expected progress in mathematics.

In Key Stage 2, seven out of eight pupils attained national expectations in reading and writing, and all eight of them did so in mathematics. More than half attained higher Level 5 in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and mathematics. All pupils made expected progress and half of them exceeded expectations in mathematics.

An external review of governance led by the local authority is planned for later this term. Additional training is being arranged to enable governors to hold senior leaders to account for the school's performance. Effective arrangements to keep pupils safe including the single central record remain in place.

External support

You have drawn upon additional support from the local authority and from an external consultant to strengthen your improvement and development planning. The school has joined the Norfolk to Good and Great programme to gain from additional training and support and to learn from other schools with good practice locally and beyond the region.

The local authority continues to work with the school to tackle the issue raised in the previous inspection concerning the maintenance and heating of the school. So far

this issue remains unresolved and presents a distraction for school leaders' who are focussing on improving the school's overall effectiveness.

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

Yours sincerely

John Mitcheson
Her Majesty's Inspector