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17 October 2014

Mrs Emma Woollon
Headteacher
Bedmond Village Primary and Nursery School
Meadow Way
Bedmond
Abbots Langley
WD5 0RD

Dear Mrs Woollon

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Bedmond Village Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit to your school on 16 October 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 July 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. At its previous section 5 inspection the school was also judged to require improvement.

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:

- improve leadership capacity by appointing a deputy headteacher and developing the role of middle leaders
- ensure that teaching is at least good in all year groups.

Evidence

During the inspection I held meetings with you, the Chair of the Governing Body and a representative of the local authority to discuss the action taken since the inspection in July 2014. I evaluated the school improvement plan and other

associated documentation. I visited each classroom with you to observe teaching and learning and look at the work in pupils' books.

Context

Since the previous inspection two teachers, including the deputy headteacher, have left the school. Two teachers started at the school in September 2014, but you have not yet been able to recruit a replacement for the deputy headteacher.

Main findings

You have taken prompt action to address the weaknesses identified at the previous inspection. You have developed a detailed plan which shows the actions that you intend to take in order for the school to be judged as good at the next inspection. The plan contains challenging targets and identifies key points at which progress will be reviewed by school leaders, including governors.

You recognise that improvements are required to the quality of teaching and learning across the school. You have put a schedule together which identifies how teachers will be supported in making the necessary improvements. This includes a balance of training and in-class support. You have also introduced changes to the way teachers plan for pupils' learning and how teachers mark work and feed back to pupils. You are reviewing the impact of these measures carefully, by observing teaching and making regular checks on pupils' work. You have begun to involve middle leaders in this process, encouraging them to evaluate the impact of the changes that are being introduced.

The school was disappointed by the negative views expressed by some parents on Parent View prior to the previous inspection and you have taken steps to ensure that all parents engage in a positive way with the school. You held a meeting with parents recently to discuss the school's plans for improvement and you are planning to provide half-termly reports on pupils' progress.

Governance was judged to be effective at the previous inspection and the governing body has a good understanding of the challenges that the school faces. Governors are clear about the school's priorities. They know where weaknesses lie and how training and support are being provided to bring about the necessary improvements. They understand the links between the quality of teaching and pupils' achievement and understand their role in monitoring the progress that the school is making.

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 and challenge to the school. An

improvement adviser works with you regularly and provides helpful feedback which supports school self-evaluation and improvement planning. The local authority has also provided additional support for teachers aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning. However, a lack of capacity at senior and middle leader level means that the impact of this work has been limited and continued support is required.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Tomkow
Her Majesty's Inspector