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Suzie Hall
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Dear Mrs Hall

Ofsted visit to Hextable Primary School

Following my visit with Louise Walker, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 29 September 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and members of the senior leadership team. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- You opened the school to all pupils on 2 September 2020. All year groups are attending school full time.
- Since the start of the autumn term, pupils' rates of attendance have been similar to those in the autumn term last year. There is a small proportion of pupils who have not returned since September. Staff have worked with the local authority to keep in regular contact with these pupils' families and offer support so that they can return to school.
- Pupils are now studying the subjects that the school normally offers within its curriculum. Leaders introduced a 'recovery curriculum' project in the first two weeks of the autumn term. This project provided pupils with learning in all national curriculum subjects and particularly focused on personal, social and health education.
- In mathematics, teachers have worked out what pupils know, understand and remember from their previous learning. In addition to daily mathematics lessons, staff re-visit any gaps they have identified in short afternoon sessions. Staff have provided extra support for those pupils who need to catch up the most.
- Staff have prioritised improving pupils' reading and phonics understanding. Leaders used assessments across all year groups to determine where pupils were in their reading. Teachers have adjusted their phonics teaching in

Reception Year, Year 1 and Year 2, based on the gaps that pupils have in their phonics knowledge.

- In the wider curriculum, staff have made some changes. Your team has prioritised the teaching of science and physical education in all year groups so that pupils develop their understanding of healthy lifestyle choices and the importance of physical exercise.
- You have made plans to deliver the full curriculum remotely if needed. These plans include making learning accessible through the school's website.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Kent County Council. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Harry Ingham
Her Majesty's Inspector