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Gillian Deery
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Dear Mrs Deery

Ofsted visit to Potters Green Primary School

Following my visit with Lesley Yates, 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, the deputy headteacher, the special educational needs coordinator (SENCo), the curriculum leaders for English and mathematics, the early years leader, a learning mentor and a member of the administration 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 pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is currently in line with what it was this time last year. You shared your expectations about pupils' attendance with parents. You supported families who were nervous about sending their children to school.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects through your curriculum. However, planned swimming lessons have been moved to later in the year. You expect pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers' checks have shown that pupils' reading comprehension is an area that requires extra work. Consequently, you are changing the focus and number of the sessions where pupils read to adults. Phonic checks have shown that Year 1 pupils have gaps in their phonic knowledge. You have adapted the Year 1 curriculum in response to this.
- In mathematics, teachers' checks have identified gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding of, for example, place value. Teachers used this information to revisit previous work to fill gaps in pupils' knowledge, while still following the planned curriculum. Teachers plan to repeat this process when they move onto the next block of work in mathematics.
- You are redesigning your wider curriculum. You are using a commercial scheme while making changes based on pupils' needs. You intend to revisit some of the missed learning from the summer term within the new curriculum.

- Currently, you are providing some online reading, spelling and mathematics programmes. You plan to use an online learning platform to deliver remote learning if bubbles of pupils are sent home. Leaders say this will be aligned with your usual curriculum.

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 Coventry. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Simner
Her Majesty's Inspector