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Amanda Bartholomew
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Dear Mrs Bartholomew

Ofsted visit to Anston Park Junior School

Following my visit with James Duncan, 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 senior leaders, including those responsible for safeguarding and the business manager. 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:

- The school opened to all pupils on 2 September. All pupils are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance is above what is normal for the school at this time of year.
- Pupils are studying all subjects that would normally be covered at this time of year, with the exception of French. You are aiming for pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have assessed pupils' reading to check their comprehension skills and to find out if they have any gaps in their phonics knowledge. Teachers are doing additional work on the meaning of vocabulary with some pupils, to help them to understand the texts they read. Some pupils are receiving extra catch-up phonics sessions to go over sounds they need to know before they can move on.
- You are checking pupils' knowledge in mathematics as you work through different topics. You have found that many pupils have forgotten how to explain their reasoning and are not as fluent with times tables as they were. Teachers are adapting lessons to give pupils lots of opportunities to practise and regain these skills.
- Leaders are beginning to look at gaps in pupils' knowledge in the wider curriculum. You explained that you intend to adapt your curriculum over the year to make sure pupils gain the knowledge and skills that are the most important for their future learning.

- Leaders explained that digital resources are available for those pupils to be able to access work when they are not in school. This system will continue if there is a need to deliver the curriculum remotely in the future.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Cook
Her Majesty's Inspector