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Louise Worrell
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Worrell

Ofsted visit to Spaldwick Community Primary School

Following my visit with Paul Wilson, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 October 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. 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:

- Pupils in Years 1 to 6 returned to school for the autumn term on 8 September 2020. Children in Reception class started school on 14 September 2020. All year groups attend full time.
- Attendance is below what you expect for this time of the year. Leaders are working with parents and external agencies to support those pupils who have not attended school regularly.
- In September 2020, you started a new curriculum for the whole school that you planned before COVID-19. Pupils are studying all subjects within the curriculum.
- Staff have started to check what pupils know and understand. Staff will use this information to provide support for any pupils who need to catch up.
- You intend to put in place an online library to help pupils to read books at home matched to your reading programme.
- Staff have been following advice from external specialists to structure the mathematics curriculum for the autumn term. You told us that you are giving pupils regular opportunities to practise what they have already learned.
- You have put measures in place for staff to teach the curriculum in line with government safety guidance regarding COVID-19. You have worked with the local authority to enable staff to provide educational visits and guest speakers.
- In preparation for the possibility of further restrictions on school attendance due to COVID-19, staff are teaching pupils how best to learn from home. You have structured the curriculum to make learning from home easier. To help

you plan remote education further, you have started to find out which families have easy access to computers and the internet.

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

Yours sincerely

Al Mistrano
Her Majesty's Inspector