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Laura Bennett
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Dear Mrs Bennett

Ofsted visit to Bearwood Primary and Nursery School

Following my visit with Dale Burr, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 6 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 and your deputy headteacher. 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 reopened full time to pupils in Years 1 to 6 on 7 September 2020. Children in Reception started school full time on 14 September 2020. Children in Nursery can attend all their sessions.
- Pupils' attendance this term is broadly in line with the school's normal attendance for this time of year.
- Every subject from the school's usual curriculum is planned in. In the short term, leaders are adjusting the depth of content in some subjects. Staff are prioritising personal, social and health education, English, mathematics and physical education (PE).
- Leaders have checked pupils' knowledge and understanding in reading, writing and mathematics. Staff are adapting their teaching plans between now and December 2020. Pupils are receiving extra lessons in English and mathematics.
- In PE, staff are increasing the time pupils spend on outdoor sports.
- In Nursery, staff are giving priority to developing children's speaking skills and imaginative play.
- Leaders are prioritising reading. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have extra phonics time each day. In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, teachers are focusing on deepening pupils' understanding of what they read.
- In mathematics, teachers are concentrating on number, place value and mathematical problems.

- You have trained your staff to use online learning platforms. You have plans in place for pupils who are self-isolating to access the same curriculum content as their classmates.

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, chair of the board of trustees, and the chief executive officer, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Julie Carrington
Her Majesty's Inspector