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Derek Nevell
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Nevell

Ofsted visit to West Huntspill Community Primary

Following my visit with Jen Southall, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 8 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, the deputy designated safeguarding lead and English lead, the senior teacher responsible for curriculum and the federation 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:

- West Huntspill Community Primary opened to all pupils on 7 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is broadly in line with the usual attendance figures seen at this time of year.
- You 're-mapped' the school's curriculum during lockdown. This revised curriculum was introduced in September 2020.
- All pupils are studying every subject in the curriculum. You are prioritising reading, writing and mathematics to help pupils catch up. There are practical aspects of some subjects, including science, design and technology and physical education, which are not being taught, particularly in Years 3 to 6.
- You expect pupils to return to their usual curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers are completing tests to determine what pupils know and can remember in reading, writing and mathematics. This is to help teachers gain a better understanding of what pupils need to learn in order to catch up quickly.
- Reading and phonics is a priority. You have introduced a new phonics programme since reopening in September 2020. Teachers are providing

opportunities to develop key aspects of reading. They are focusing on improving pupils' comprehension and understanding.

- Teachers are continuing to assess what pupils know and can remember in mathematics. Teachers have noticed gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding of number, particularly place value.
- You have plans to deliver the curriculum remotely, should this be needed. Teachers use the school's website and paper learning packs to deliver the curriculum and maintain communication between home and school.

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

Yours sincerely

Stewart Gale
Her Majesty's Inspector