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Jane Hesketh-Williams
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Hesketh-Williams

Ofsted visit to East Coker Community Primary School

Following my visit with Heather Barraclough, 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 the senior leadership team and the designated safeguarding lead, who is also the 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 opened to all pupils on 7 September 2020. There were some pupils on part-time timetables.
- Attendance is in line with the normal attendance for this time of year. There were no 'bubbles' isolating at the time of the visit.
- You are offering the usual curriculum subjects with some adaptations such as no singing and no indoor physical education.
- Leaders have checked pupils' starting points in English and mathematics.
- Reading, particularly phonics, is a priority for pupils in Years 1 and 2. You are adapting the writing curriculum to ensure that pupils maintain stamina in extended writing. You are focusing on presentational skills, too.
- You told us that mathematics does not need a recovery curriculum.
- Personal, social, health and economic education has a high profile every day. Assessment in other aspects of the wider curriculum is taking place.
- In Reception, leaders have adapted the curriculum for health and safety reasons. For example, children are not permitted to learn with sand, water and similar products.
- You have planned a package of remote learning. It is aligned with the school's long-term curriculum plans.

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

Kathy Maddocks
Her Majesty's Inspector