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Michele Johnson
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Dear Ms Johnson

Ofsted visit to Green Lanes Primary School

Following my visit with Steve Mellors, 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, the deputy headteacher, the special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) and the pastoral lead. 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 for all pupils on 3 September 2020. A handful of pupils are currently attending part time as part of a phased return to school.
- Attendance is a little lower than it was at this time last year. A very small number of parents continue to be concerned about sending their children back to school. You and your staff are supporting those parents to feel confident that it is safe to do so.
- Since it opened for all pupils at the beginning of September, the school has been following what you describe as a 'recovery curriculum', to help pupils get used to being back in school. You intend that the school will start to move back to its usual curriculum in a couple of weeks' time and that this will be fully in place from January 2021.
- You have found that the period when schools were only open to some pupils, due to COVID-19 restrictions, has had a negative impact on pupils' progress in reading, particularly for boys. Next week, staff will be assessing pupils' knowledge and skills in reading, including phonics. This information will then be used to help you to identify which pupils need additional support in this area.
- In mathematics, staff are using materials provided by the local authority to help pupils to refresh their key mathematics skills, and to rekindle their enthusiasm for mathematics.
- Although you are concentrating on English and mathematics, and on settling pupils back into school, pupils are learning across the full range of subjects in

your curriculum. You have decided to continue with educational visits, some of which are planned for later this term.

- Staff throughout the school are now using an online platform when planning their teaching. This system will be used if pupils are unable to be in school 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 Hertfordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Varney
Her Majesty's Inspector