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Clare Rees
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Dear Dr Rees

Ofsted visit to Havelock Primary School and Nursery

Following my visit with Alison Colenso, 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 and the senior leadership team, including the leader responsible for safeguarding. 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 3 September 2020. Pupils are expected to attend full time. During the first week of term, Reception children attended part time.
- For this time of year, pupils' attendance is slightly lower than it would be typically. You are in regular contact with families to establish the reasons for pupils' absence. Where necessary, you provide reassurance to parents that it is safe for their children to return to school.
- Leaders aim for pupils to return to their usual curriculum by January 2021. This term, teachers intend to plug any gaps in pupils' learning, with priority given to English and mathematics. To support this priority, you have reduced the time allocated to the teaching of geography and history. You plan to resume regular teaching of history and geography in spring 2021.
- You said that it was crucial that all pupils get back on track with their reading, particularly pupils in Years 1 and 2. Teachers have identified that most pupils remember the sounds that they have previously learned, but do not use what they know to sound out unfamiliar words and to write words accurately. Teachers are providing increased opportunities for pupils to practise reading and spelling, and are giving greater emphasis to promoting reading for pleasure.
- Teachers have used tests and quizzes to check what pupils remember in mathematics. Following these checks, teaching is focused on strengthening pupils' understanding of place value, calculation methods and mathematical vocabulary to prepare pupils for the study of new mathematical content and concepts.

- For the first two weeks of term, you put in place a 'rainbow curriculum', which aimed to rebuild pupils' resilience, self-confidence and social skills. To support pupils' well-being throughout the autumn term, you have allocated more time to teaching physical education (PE). This includes more frequent opportunities for pupils to take part in sports and physical activity during the school day.
- You have plans to deliver the curriculum remotely, for instance if individual pupils or 'bubbles' need to self-isolate. You will provide pupils with online activities set by their teacher, including pre-recorded lessons that will match what pupils are learning in subject lessons in 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 Ealing. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Murphy
Her Majesty's Inspector