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3 November 2020

Aaron Meredith
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Dear Mr Meredith

Ofsted visit to Tor Bridge Primary School

Following my visit with Matthew Barnes, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 13 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 assistant headteacher. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures you have 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:

- All pupils returned to school on the 3 September 2020. The large majority of pupils are attending on a full-time basis.
- Pupils' attendance is similar to what it was at the same time last year. You have reassured parents who were initially anxious about their children's return to school, and will continue to promote your usual expectations of pupils' attendance.
- Pupils are studying all of the national curriculum subjects. You have made adaptations to allow pupils to participate in activities which are designed to enrich their learning, for example a forthcoming visit to a local museum.
- You have identified that there are some gaps in pupils' knowledge, particularly in early reading, resulting from the period when schools were only open to some children due to COVID-19 restrictions. You have plans in place to support pupils who need it. Teachers have given thought to the choice of texts that pupils read.
- Your checks on pupils' understanding in mathematics when they returned to school have shown that pupils are less confident in calculation and understanding place value than they were. Consequently, you have explored ways to ensure that pupils can refresh their understanding of these mathematical skills.
- In the wider curriculum, pupils have missed some important background subject knowledge during the period when schools were only open to some

children due to COVID-19 restrictions. You have therefore reviewed the curriculum so that this can be remedied.

- You have refined your approach to remote learning over time so that it now aligns with your normal curriculum. This means that you can deliver the school's curriculum whether pupils are in face-to-face lessons or working at home, if that becomes necessary.

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 board of trustees, and the chief executive officer of the Inspire multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Plymouth. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Sarah McGinnis
Her Majesty's Inspector