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Richard Unthank
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Dear Mr Unthank

Ofsted visit to St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Following my visit with Zoe Lightfoot, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 29 September 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 assistant headteacher, the curriculum leader and the learning mentor. 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:

- You opened the school to all pupils on 2 September 2020. This includes the two resource bases that support pupils with autism spectrum disorder. Children in Nursery attend for half days only, either five mornings or five afternoons. Pupils in all other year groups attend full time.
- Attendance is slightly above that before March 2020. All pupils returned to school at the beginning of term. Systems are in place to encourage pupils to attend school. Your learning mentor has regular contact with pupils and families when there are concerns about attendance.
- Your teachers started the school year with a two week 'reconnection curriculum'. Here, pupils spent time with their teacher from last year. It was planned to help pupils settle back into school routines. Pupils are now with their new teacher.
- You have undertaken short assessments to check where pupils are up to in learning to read. This includes their knowledge in phonics. Additional teaching has started so that pupils get back on track with their reading as soon as possible.
- In mathematics, teachers are looking at what pupils in their class can do and altering curriculum plans when needed. You have identified that individual pupils have different gaps in their knowledge and that an individual approach to supporting pupils is needed.

- Pupils are studying all subjects within the curriculum. Currently, pupils do not sing in music lessons and do not go swimming as part of the physical education curriculum. You are seeking advice and reviewing practicalities around these aspects of the curriculum. As in mathematics, teachers are looking carefully at what pupils know in subjects across the curriculum and altering curriculum plans when needed.
- You have identified a need to focus on the physical, social and emotional development of children in early years.
- You have a system of remote learning ready should it be needed again in the future. This includes online learning, some online teaching and printed resources. Your plans are aligned to the whole-school curriculum.

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 multi-academy trust, the director of education for the diocese of York, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Redcar and Cleveland. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Michael Wardle
Her Majesty's Inspector