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Jeannette Brooks
Field Junior School
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Dear Miss Brooks

Ofsted visit to Field Junior School

Following my visit with Wendy Varney, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 20 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 and the inclusion coordinator. 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:

- You reopened the school to all pupils on 3 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is as you would normally expect at this time of year. Following the summer break, some pupils were in quarantine because of the COVID-19 restrictions in place. This delayed their return to school at the start of term.
- Teachers are using your usual checking systems to identify pupils' new starting points and any gaps in their knowledge and understanding in reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers are adjusting their plans to cover the learning pupils have missed. You are reviewing what pupils know more often than you normally would, to make sure that pupils are catching up.
- You have identified pupils who need extra support with reading (including phonics), and writing. You are giving pupils more opportunities to read aloud to an adult and to write more frequently.
- The usual curriculum plans for mathematics are being taught. Pupils are revisiting some learning they have covered. Teachers are adapting their teaching to recap the areas where pupils are less confident because of learning they have missed.
- You are teaching most curriculum subjects. Alternative arrangements are in place for Year 6 pupils to have swimming lessons. This will be extended to other year groups. Music lessons are currently on hold during the autumn term and school clubs are not taking place at the moment.
- Leaders have decided what they will use to support pupils to learn from home. Teachers are being trained so that they can provide online learning for pupils in the future if it is required.

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

Katherine Douglas
Her Majesty's Inspector