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11 November 2020

Kim Thornton
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Thornton

Ofsted visit to Chidham Parochial Primary School

Following my visit with Daniel Lambert, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 22 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 bursar. 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 pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on 3 September 2020. Pupils are expected to attend full time. Reception-age children attended part time from 8 September before starting full time on 25 September.
- Pupils' attendance is lower than at the same period last year. Before the start of term, the school provided information to parents and pupils which explained how school routines would be different when they returned, and that pupils are expected to attend school.
- All subjects are being taught. Teachers are reordering the content that is being taught in some subjects. Leaders hope that the curriculum will return to normal by January 2021.
- After checks at the start of term, teachers are spending more time helping younger pupils practise their early reading skills. Older pupils are being provided with more opportunities to listen to different types of books being read aloud.
- In mathematics, teachers have noticed that pupils have remembered their calculation skills. They are supporting pupils with their problem-solving skills. The school is providing extra support for some pupils to improve their quick recall skills.
- In September, the school started using a new curriculum they purchased for other subjects. Teachers are checking pupils' understanding as they teach

each lesson. They will adapt future lessons based on how much pupils can remember.

- Teachers currently provide online homework tasks. If needed, this system will be used to provide remote learning if groups of pupils need to self-isolate. Individual class teachers will provide tasks that link to pupils' learning 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 director of education for the diocese of Chichester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for West Sussex. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Laurie Anderson
Her Majesty's Inspector