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Vanessa Vaughan
Headteacher
Northfield Primary School: With Communication Resource
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Dear Mrs Vaughan

Ofsted visit to Northfield Primary School: With Communication Resource

Following my visit with James Duncan, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 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 senior leadership team, leaders responsible for safeguarding, curriculum leaders, the behaviour lead, the attendance officer and the special needs delivery manager. 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:

- Most pupils have been expected to attend full time since the school opened on 9 September 2020. A small number of pupils from all age groups started attending on a part-time basis. These pupils are expected to attend full time by week four of this term.
- Attendance is below what it was at this time last year. Leaders are following their normal procedures to encourage pupils to attend more regularly.
- Pupils are studying all subjects that form their usual curriculum. Teachers have made some changes to subject content to fill gaps in learning caused by your partial closure when the school was not open to all pupils in the spring and summer terms 2020.
- All pupils have been assessed in reading. You have identified gaps in many pupils' phonics knowledge and are addressing these gaps in phonics lessons and with additional catch-up sessions. You have tested all fluent readers to check for any changes in reading ages and help to choose the books they read so that they can recover their lost learning.

- Leaders have asked teachers to assess what pupils can remember in mathematics following the school's partial closure. You are adapting the curriculum, to address the gaps and misconceptions you have found.
- You are checking pupils' knowledge and understanding in all subjects across the wider curriculum. You are adapting your curriculum plans to address the content that was missed during the school's partial closure.
- Leaders have plans in place to deliver the curriculum remotely should this be needed. You intend to use videos of lessons and other online resources.

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 Wakefield. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Chris Cook
Her Majesty's Inspector