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Anna Sydenham
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Dear Mrs Sydenham

Ofsted visit to Meadows Primary School and Nursery

Following my visit with Eve Morris, 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 other members of the senior leadership team. 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:

- Pupils in Years 3 to 6 returned on Thursday 3 September, with pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 joining them on Friday 4 September. The school opened fully to all pupils on Monday 7 September when nursery children were admitted.
- You told us that since opening the school to all pupils, attendance has been slightly lower than the school's normal rate for this time of the year.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. Some activities such as swimming and residential visits are not taking place at the moment.
- You have extended the school day to provide extra teaching time. This is used to help pupils to catch up in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Teachers in key stage 1 are checking to see what phonics pupils can remember. A new reading test was used to assess aspects of pupils' reading. You are focusing on developing pupils' stamina to read for longer periods of time.
- In mathematics, your priority continues to be to develop pupils' skills and knowledge in number work, especially place value. The mathematics leader told us that pupils play mathematical games as problem-solving activities and talk about what they are doing. Teachers make regular checks to see what pupils can do.
- Teachers use a range of quizzes to see what pupils can remember in subjects such as geography, history and science. You told us that teachers use knowledge organisers to remind pupils of what they have previously learned.

- A new online learning platform has been bought. You plan to use it to replicate the normal school timetable should pupils have to work at home as a result of COVID-19. Staff are currently being trained in how to set work for their class.

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

Yours sincerely

Nicola Harwood
Her Majesty's Inspector