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13 November 2020

Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Moore

Ofsted visit to Stillington Primary School

Following my visit with Tim Scargill-Knight, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 November 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. 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 opened the school to children in the Reception Year on 8 September 2020. Pupils in Years 1 to 6 returned on 9 September.
- You explained that pupils are studying the usual range of subjects that make up the school's curriculum.
- At the beginning of this term, teachers assessed pupils' reading skills. Teachers identified that some pupils in Years 1 to 3 had gaps in their phonics knowledge. You told us that you have introduced additional phonics lessons and extra opportunities for pupils to read with their teachers.
- Teachers have assessed pupils' learning in mathematics. Teachers have identified that some pupils cannot recall their multiplication tables. Teachers are giving pupils daily practice to help pupils secure this knowledge.
- You reported that teachers' assessments have not identified any gaps in pupils' learning in other subjects.
- Teachers use a combination of online and paper-based resources if pupils are learning at home. In the event of pupils self-isolating or a wider school closure, teachers stream some online lessons live from the classroom each day. In addition, teaching assistants hear all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, read remotely.

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 North Yorkshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Ralph
Her Majesty's Inspector