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Matt Green
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Green

Ofsted visit to Southfield Primary School

Following my visit with Vic Wilkinson, 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 and members of the senior leadership team, including the designated safeguarding lead and the special educational needs 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:

- The school opened to pupils on 3 September 2020. All pupils attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is above that usually seen at this time of year.
- Pupils are studying the usual range of subjects other than some parts of the music curriculum. You are planning for pupils to return to the school's usual music curriculum before the end of the academic year.
- Teachers checked pupils' phonic knowledge as soon as they returned to school. Leaders have made sure that pupils receive additional phonics lessons to help them to catch up.
- Teachers have checked pupils' knowledge and understanding in reading. Leaders have put support in place where pupils have fallen behind.
- In mathematics, teachers are providing opportunities for pupils to cover the curriculum content that they missed when they were not at school.
- Pupils continue to study all subjects in the school's usual curriculum. Leaders have planned for curriculum trips to take place later in the school year.
- Leaders have developed plans to deliver the curriculum remotely, if needed. They have checked that families have the right technology to access online resources at home. Leaders have made sure that remote education is closely matched to the school's usual curriculum.

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 board of trustees (for academies), and the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Northamptonshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Damien Turrell
Her Majesty's Inspector