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Geoff Mason
Headteacher
Bridge Farm Primary School
East Dundry Road
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Dear Mr Mason

Ofsted visit to Bridge Farm Primary School

Following my visit with Dale Burr, 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, an assistant headteacher, the special educational needs coordinator and the learning mentor. 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 reopened to pupils in Years 1 to 6 on 3 September 2020. Children in Reception started full time on 28 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance this term is above the school's normal attendance for this time of year.
- Leaders are making temporary adjustments to the curriculum. In the short term, teachers are prioritising English, mathematics, science, physical education, personal, social and health education and art. Some year groups are studying music.
- Leaders have plans to reintroduce more subjects in January 2021.
- Leaders and staff are checking what pupils know in English, mathematics and science. Teachers are adapting their plans between now and December 2020 to secure and deepen pupils' knowledge.
- In Reception, leaders are prioritising early reading, including children's early language development. In Years 1 and 2, pupils are having extra phonics teaching. In Years 4, 5 and 6 teachers are focusing on deepening pupils' understanding of what they read.
- You told us that pupils in Years 1 and 2 have remembered their number facts. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are focusing on reasoning and problem solving in mathematics.

- You have a plan in place for remote learning. You expect pupils who are working at home to follow the same curriculum as their classmates. You have plans in place to ensure that teachers check pupils' understanding and give them feedback on their work.

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

Yours sincerely

Julie Carrington
Her Majesty's Inspector