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13 November 2020

Keeley Wilson  
Headteacher  
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Luddenham  
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Kent  
ME13 0TE

Dear Mrs Wilson

### **Ofsted visit to Luddenham School**

Following my visit with Hanna Miller, 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, your deputy 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 fully to pupils in Years 1 to 6 on 2 September 2020. The school's usual staggered start for Reception-age children was extended for slightly longer this year, with children attending full time from 21 September 2020.
- Attendance is lower than normal for this time of year. You have regularly communicated to parents and carers your expectation that pupils should attend school as usual. You have offered reassurance about the protective measures in place.
- Pupils are studying the usual range of subjects except for computing, which is only being taught to Year 5. Particular aspects of music and physical education have been postponed to later in the academic year. You plan to reinstate computing for all year groups as soon as possible, and hope to restore the usual curriculum across all subjects by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have checked pupils' new starting points in reading, writing and mathematics. They are using this information to revisit previous curriculum content. You found out that pupils have fallen furthest behind in writing, so you have made this a new whole-school priority.
- Before beginning your assessments, you had already decided that reading would be a focus alongside pupils' well-being. The school has invested in new books. Teachers have allocated more time for teaching phonics to enable pupils to revisit content that they would usually already know.

- In mathematics, the main focus has been on number. You explained how teachers are taking extra care to check that pupils' understanding is secure before moving on to new content.
- In other subjects, teachers aim to integrate key learning points from topics not taught during the summer term, into this year's curriculum.
- If required to deliver education remotely, the school plans to set English and mathematics tasks online. Teachers intend to link these tasks to topics in other subjects where they can. The school plans to provide pupils with equipment and materials, including printed copies of the work, where helpful.

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, chair of the board of trustees, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Kent. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Clive Dunn  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**