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16 November 2020

Dominique Osborne  
Executive Principal  
Thomas Hinderwell Primary Academy  
Seamer Road  
Scarborough  
North Yorkshire  
YO12 4HF

Dear Mrs Osborne

### **Ofsted visit to Thomas Hinderwell Primary Academy**

Following my visit with Michael Wardle, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 8 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 senior leadership team and curriculum leads. 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 for all pupils from 8 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend full time from Reception to Year 6. In Nursery, children attend on a full-time or part-time basis.
- You told us that, to date, pupils' attendance is slightly higher than it was at this time last year.
- This term, you introduced a 'recovery curriculum' designed to support pupils' well-being and increase their readiness to learn. You aim to return to your usual curriculum at the start of the spring term 2021.
- Teachers have completed assessments to check where pupils are in their learning in English and mathematics, following COVID-19 restrictions.
- You told us that the development of pupils' vocabulary is a priority. You have trained additional staff to deliver extra phonic sessions for pupils in Years 1 to 4.
- In mathematics, you have introduced afternoon 'fluency' sessions to fill the gaps in pupils' understanding of number, place value and calculation, across Year 1 to Year 6.
- Teachers are using newly adjusted curriculum plans, for all year groups, created by subject leaders within the trust. These are designed to focus on the important skills and knowledge pupils have missed in each subject.
- You have a range of remote learning options on offer if pupils are unable to attend school. Pupils access learning online or via a printed workbook. This learning matches the lessons they would receive in school.

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, the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, 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

Zoe Lightfoot  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**