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Deborah Worrall  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mrs Worrall

### **Ofsted visit to New Delaval Primary School**

Following my visit with Jenny Thomas, 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 your deputy headteacher. 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 all pupils on 2 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is broadly in line with the usual attendance for this time of year. Many pupils have improved their punctuality since returning to school in September.
- You told us that pupils are studying most curriculum subjects. You have prioritised English, mathematics, science, history, geography, physical education, and personal, social and health education. You plan to return to all usual curriculum subjects by summer term 2021.
- Leaders have checked what pupils know in mathematics and English since returning to school in September. You have identified where pupils across the school have fallen behind in these subjects over the summer term. You have directed teachers to adjust their plans so that pupils can revisit the subject content that they have missed or forgotten.
- Leaders have identified what pupils have missed in phonics and reading sessions due to Covid-19 restrictions. Pupils access an extra reading session every day to help them to catch up on missed learning.
- In mathematics, teachers made similar checks to pinpoint any gaps in pupils' knowledge. You have focused on pupils learning about place value and practising their 'times tables'. Pupils have daily catch-up sessions to practise and revisit this mathematical content.
- In the wider curriculum subjects, teachers have adjusted the planned content of lessons. This is to include important content that pupils missed over the summer. You intend to adapt the content of all subjects as you check how well pupils catch up over this term.

- Leaders have introduced a system for remote learning should it be needed in the future. Staff and pupils have been trained in how to use this. Leaders are developing this so that it links closely with what pupils would be learning 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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Northumberland. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Alison Aitchison  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**