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16 November 2020

Cari Burgess  
Headteacher  
Henry Whipple Primary School  
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Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire  
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Dear Mrs Burgess

### **Ofsted remote visit to Henry Whipple Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Deirdre Duignan, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 5 November 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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 and the assistant headteacher. We did not speak to pupils.

### **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 all pupils on 3 September. Pupils are expected to attend full time. A small number of pupils are self-isolating.
- Pupils' attendance has remained at the level you would normally expect at this time in the school year.
- Pupils are studying all the school's usual range of subjects, except music. However, pupils in Year 4 are continuing to receive lessons in playing the guitar.
- Teachers have reordered some of the aspects they are teaching during the year, but expect that all pupils will return to a normal curriculum by summer term 2021. Extra-curricular activities and clubs are not taking place.
- Teachers have noted that many children in the Reception Year have lower levels of skills in their speaking, listening and attention. Staff are modelling these skills for children, to help them catch up.
- The assessments that teachers have made show that pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 have some gaps in their phonic knowledge. Teachers are supporting pupils to learn the sound–letter correspondences that they do not know.
- Teachers are giving pupils lots of opportunities to learn about numbers. This is because pupils have returned with less mathematical fluency, and lack sufficiently rapid recall of facts they need.

- Teachers are asking pupils questions to find their knowledge gaps in other subjects. They are helping pupils to plug these gaps as the school year continues.
- Staff have been trained so that they are able to deliver the curriculum remotely, if this is needed as a result of COVID-19. Teachers will use short video films and set online tasks as appropriate.

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

Yours sincerely

Roary Pownall  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**