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Susan Callaghan
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Callaghan

Ofsted remote visit to Christ Church CofE Primary school

Following my remote visit with Sue Eastwood, 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 (coronavirus) 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. 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 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 to pupils in Years 1 to 6 on 3 September 2020. Children in the Reception class attended full time from the 9 September 2020. You expect all pupils to attend full time.
- Pupils' attendance is higher than usual for this time of the year.
- Pupils are studying the school's usual curriculum, with the exception of indoor physical education (PE). In this subject, teachers have adapted the order of the curriculum. You are using this additional time to help pupils to catch up with any lost learning in English and mathematics. You anticipate that pupils will return to their usual PE curriculum by the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have identified the letters and sounds that pupils have not remembered from before March 2020. You explained that teachers have adapted the way that phonics is taught and purchased additional resources to help pupils catch up.
- You told us that some of the older pupils do not use spelling, punctuation and grammar as accurately as they used to before the period when schools were only open to some pupils due to COVID-19 restrictions. Teachers have allocated more time to allow pupils to practise these aspects of their writing.
- Teachers have checked what pupils know and remember in mathematics. They found that some pupils have forgotten how to use their mathematical knowledge confidently. You have allocated more time for pupils to regain these skills.

- You explained to us that teachers are teaching any content from the science curriculum that was missed during the summer term 2020.
- You have systems in place to deliver the curriculum remotely, should it be required. Teachers have developed a range of resources, including delivering 'live' lessons.

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 director of education for the diocese of Manchester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Oldham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Stringer
Her Majesty's Inspector