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Laura Snow
Head of Academy
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Dear Mrs Snow

Ofsted remote visit to Strand Primary Academy

Following my remote visit with Tracey Ralph, 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 and members of the senior leadership team. 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 a full-time basis on 4 September 2020. Children in Reception attended part time on 4 September 2020 and full time from 7 September 2020.
- Pupils' attendance is higher than usual for your school at this time of year.
- Pupils are studying the full range of subjects that make up the school's usual curriculum.
- Teachers have checked pupils' new starting points in reading. You explained that some pupils are less fluent readers than they were in March 2020. Teachers are spending more time teaching reading to all pupils, and some pupils who need extra help are taking part in additional reading sessions.
- Teachers have adapted the mathematics curriculum to address the gaps that they have identified in pupils' knowledge and understanding. You told us that teachers are spending additional time helping all pupils rebuild their knowledge of multiplication tables. Some pupils are taking part in extra mathematics lessons to help them catch up.
- Teachers have considered the content that pupils missed in subjects like history and science. You explained that teachers are teaching this missed content before moving onto content in the school's usual curriculum.
- A small number of pupils who are self-isolating are currently accessing education remotely. You told us that the curriculum for these pupils is in line

with that which is being taught in school. You have plans in place to deliver the curriculum remotely to a larger number of pupils, if required.

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 and the chief executive officer of the Delta multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for North East Lincolnshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Tim Scargill-Knight
Her Majesty's Inspector