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Helen Moorcroft
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Moorcroft

Ofsted remote visit to Bredbury Green Primary school

Following my remote visit with Julie Barlow, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 17 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, the executive headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the pastoral leader and the leader for inclusion. 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:

- Since the start of the autumn term 2020, just less than one third of pupils have had to work from home for a period of time.
- You told us that pupils are studying the usual range of subjects. However, the content has been adapted in some subjects so that pupils can refresh their prior learning. You aim to return to the school's normal curriculum content by January 2021.
- Teachers checks on pupils' reading skills have identified that pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 have not remembered some of the sounds and letters that they knew before March 2020. Teachers have also recognised that pupils in key stage 2 cannot talk knowledgably about the texts that they read. Teachers are giving pupils more time and support to read for meaning and to practise and repeat the sounds that they have learned.
- Teachers have also noticed that pupils are not as well equipped to write for sustained periods of time. You explained that pupils are getting more opportunities to practise their writing skills in other curriculum subjects.
- Teachers' checks in mathematics have shown that pupils have forgotten some basic facts, such as their times tables in Year 3 and calculation skills in key stage 1. Teachers are providing pupils with extra support and more mathematics sessions to help pupils remember their previous learning.
- In subjects other than English and mathematics, teachers are identifying gaps that have emerged in pupils' learning. They are including any important

learning that pupils missed during the summer term 2020 into the current units of work to help pupils catch up.

- You have systems in place to deliver remote education. These include online resources as well as weekly learning packs that are sent home for pupils who do not have internet access. You told us that pupils working from home receive daily reading, writing and mathematics tasks as well as a weekly topic project which encompasses all subjects in the wider curriculum.

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 chair of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer of the Education Learning multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Stockport. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Steve Bentham
Her Majesty's Inspector