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Sabrina Townsend
Acting Headteacher
Galleywall Primary School
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Southwark
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Dear Mrs Townsend

Ofsted remote visit to Galleywall Primary School

Following my remote visit with Sophie Welch, 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 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 fully to all pupils on 7 September 2020. All pupils are expected to attend on a full-time basis.
- Since you opened the school to all pupils, attendance has been broadly in line with the school's normal attendance figures for this time of the year. Leaders have worked with parents to ensure that expectations around attendance are clear.
- Pupils are studying the usual curriculum in the full range of subjects. You have allocated extra time to phonics, physical education and personal, social and health education.
- You have assessed pupils' knowledge of phonics. Pupils receive tailored support to help them relearn letter sounds that they have forgotten.
- Teachers checked pupils' knowledge and understanding in mathematics. They have identified gaps in pupils' understanding of times tables. As a result, leaders are putting in place additional time for mathematics each day.
- Leaders have placed a greater emphasis on supporting pupils' mental health and well-being. Teachers have adapted lesson plans to help pupils develop resilience and coping strategies.
- The school uses a digital learning platform to set work for those pupils who cannot attend school. Pupils access pre-recorded lessons and complete activities set by teachers.

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

Yours sincerely

Daniel-John Constable
Her Majesty's Inspector