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Dear Mrs Bracken

Ofsted remote visit to Hatherden Church of England Primary School

Following my remote visit with Alison Bradley, 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 curriculum leader and the deputy designated safeguarding lead. We did not speak to any 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:

- After re-opening in September, the school closed to all pupils for two weeks in October following an outbreak of COVID-19. A small number of pupils have had to learn remotely from home for short periods this term while they await test results or because of medical advice.
- Pupils study the full range of national curriculum subjects, although some content has been adapted. For example, in music, pupils are learning to play percussion rather than wind instruments. Leaders anticipate that the curriculum will return to normal by the summer term 2021.
- Staff have checked pupils' knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics through a combination of tests and teacher assessments. In other subjects, staff check what pupils know before introducing new content.
- Some pupils are struggling to read quickly and efficiently. Teachers are spending more time teaching reading to help these pupils catch up. Pupils who have gaps in their phonics knowledge read with teaching assistants more regularly to help them to decode words confidently.
- In mathematics, pupils have forgotten some key number facts. Staff are adapting their teaching so that pupils can re-visit concepts they had previously learned before moving on to age-appropriate content. Teachers are also covering content that was missed during the summer term, such as fractions, decimals and percentages.

- Children in early years are spending more time on activities to improve their physical development. All pupils are getting additional support to explore their feelings, emotions and mental health.
- Staff delivered remote education when the school was closed in October and continue to provide this for the small proportion of pupils who are self-isolating. The remote curriculum currently focuses on English, mathematics and the humanities. Leaders intend to include a wider range of subjects in the future.

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 Winchester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Hampshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Lambert
Her Majesty's Inspector