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2 December 2020

Huda Aslam  
Headteacher  
Ladypool Primary School  
Stratford Road  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B11 1QT

Dear Mrs Aslam

### **Ofsted remote visit to Ladypool Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Ian Tustian, 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 deputy headteacher, members of the leadership team and a representative from the Birmingham Education Partnership. 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 school opened to all pupils in September, approximately one quarter of pupils have had to work remotely at some point.
- Currently, pupils are studying English, mathematics and science as well as art and physical education. You explained how these subjects form your 'recovery curriculum' along with personal, social and health education. You plan to introduce the full range of curriculum subjects by the start of the summer term 2021.
- Staff check what pupils can do in reading, writing and mathematics. They say that younger pupils appear to have bigger gaps in their learning than older pupils. A catch-up programme is in place alongside your 'keep up' programme.
- Reading and writing are key priorities in your development plan. Teachers focus on increasing pupils' stamina to write for longer periods of time. You have introduced a daily guided reading session to improve pupils' reading fluency and comprehension skills.
- You told us that you have increased the time that pupils spend learning mathematics. An additional mental mathematics session is in place every afternoon.
- You described how you provide work for pupils to do when they are working at home due to COVID-19. Staff have recently been trained to deliver live

lessons. This is a change from the paper-based learning that was provided at the start of the pandemic.

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

Yours sincerely

Nicola Harwood  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**