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Brian Grogan
Headteacher
John Burns Primary School
Wycliffe Road
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Dear Mr Grogan

Ofsted remote visit to John Burns Primary School

Following my remote visit with Andrea Bedeau, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 19 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 and an assistant headteacher. You are also the senior leader responsible for safeguarding. 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:

- A small number of pupils have had to work from home since the start of term.
- All pupils are studying the same subjects as they usually would. Pupils have not gone on any external trips during the autumn term. Leaders intend to review these arrangements in the spring term.
- Teachers have checked Year 1 and 2 pupils' understanding of their previously taught phonics skills. These pupils receive additional phonics sessions. Teachers in Years 1 and 2 are prioritising the revision of spelling rules.
- Teachers have given all pupils writing tests. Pupils have additional sessions to develop their handwriting and presentation skills. Staff in the early years give extra emphasis on children practising their letter and number formation.
- In mathematics, pupils in Years 2 to 6 have been given tests, including for arithmetic. Teachers intend to focus more on developing pupils' understanding of fractions later in the academic year, particularly in Year 6.
- Pupils have had additional personal, social, health and economic education lessons. Teachers have taught themes related to developing pupils' well-being, including 'communities' and 'living in the wider world'.

- Teachers plan to deliver remote education should it be needed. These plans include recorded sessions and paper-based activities in English and mathematics, three times a week. In other subjects, teachers intend to upload or print out activities for pupils to complete independently.

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 Wandsworth. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Noeman Anwar
Her Majesty's Inspector