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Claire Turner
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Dear Mrs Turner

Ofsted remote visit to Fen Drayton Primary School

Following my remote visit with Stefanie Lipinski-Barltrop, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 17 November, 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. 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 beginning of term, no class 'bubbles' have been sent home. During this term, around one fifth of pupils have worked from home for between one and five days while waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- Pupils are studying the usual range of subjects. You have adjusted the timetable to allow more time for pupils to catch up on missed learning in English and mathematics. You plan for pupils to return to their normal curriculum for all subjects in the summer term 2021.
- Teachers have checked pupils' new starting points in reading (including phonics), writing and mathematics. In Reception and Years 1 to 3, staff are devoting extra time to the teaching of phonics and spelling. You are prioritising pupils' writing across the school to give pupils opportunities to regain their writing skills.
- In mathematics, teachers noticed that pupils have missed important learning such as understanding multiplication and fractions. You have added extra individual and small-group teaching sessions to help pupils catch up.
- In subjects such as science and history, teachers check what pupils know and plan lessons to include knowledge that pupils have missed and revisit what they might have forgotten. Some of the curriculum content has been reorganised. In Year 3, French will be taught later in the year. In music, pupils are learning about composition rather than performance.

- Remote learning is in place for pupils who need to self-isolate. This is similar to what is being taught in school. Teachers also direct pupils to resources on the school's website.

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

Yours sincerely

Fiona Webb
Her Majesty's Inspector