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11 December 2020

Susan Cook
Principal
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Dear Mrs Cook

Ofsted remote visit to Theddlethorpe Primary School

Following my remote visit with Peter Stonier, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 December 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 principal and the leader responsible for English. 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:

- At the beginning of the term almost all pupils returned to school full time. Over the term a group of pupils and some individuals have needed to spend some time learning from home. At one point, over half the school's pupils were self-isolating.
- Pupils are studying all the subjects of the school's usual curriculum, with some adjustments. A visiting music specialist is not able to come to school. Teachers have made some changes to the music curriculum to make sure it is still taught.
- Teachers are putting a greater emphasis on physical education. Pupils are taking regular exercise by running or walking a mile each day. Pupils are not being taught contact sports this term. These will resume later in the school year.
- Teachers have checked what pupils can remember in English and mathematics. Pupils have gaps in their knowledge. They are having extra support to help them to catch up.
- In reading, pupils have forgotten some of the phonic knowledge that they knew before. To help them to catch up, pupils are having extra phonics lessons each day. Leaders have bought an online phonics programme to support pupils who are learning at home.
- Pupils' knowledge of place value and calculation is not as developed as it was previously. Pupils have forgotten some of the multiplication facts they once

knew. Teachers are making sure they recap previous learning before they begin any new content.

- If pupils need to self-isolate, teachers upload work online and give out work packs. Pupils at home will cover very similar content to those who are in school. Teachers provide equipment packs for pupils who do not have resources at home.

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 and the chief executive officer of the Tollbar Multi Academy Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Lincolnshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williams
Her Majesty's Inspector