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17 December 2020

Frances Hardy  
Headteacher  
Colden Common Primary School  
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Brambridge  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire  
SO50 6HW

Dear Mrs Hardy

### **Ofsted visit to Colden Common Primary School**

Following my visit with Catherine Old, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 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.

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, the special educational needs coordinator and three subject leaders. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

### **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 (coronavirus) 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:**

- The school has not had to send home any pupil 'bubbles' this school year. Around a quarter of pupils have had to learn from home at some point since September for reasons linked to COVID-19.
- Pupils are studying the full range of national curriculum subjects. Leaders aim for pupils to have caught up and returned to the normal curriculum by February half term.
- Teachers have checked what pupils know by asking questions which require pupils to recall their prior learning. In some subjects, staff have also set short projects which they have used to identify what knowledge pupils have remembered. Staff are using this information to plan their teaching and to identify any pupils who need some extra help.
- Teachers have found that some pupils have forgotten key phonics and spelling knowledge. Staff are working with these pupils to recap their previous learning. Teachers are also revisiting the basics of grammar and punctuation with pupils, as many are struggling to write at an age-appropriate level.
- In mathematics, staff are pleased to report that most pupils have retained much of their knowledge of number and calculation. These pupils are now learning the content they missed over the summer term. A small group of pupils are receiving additional teaching to help them recap the basics of mathematics.

- Staff are keeping an eye on pupils' social and emotional well-being and have noticed that, initially, many struggled to interact with others in school after long periods at home. Additional time for personal, social and health education is being provided to address this.
- When pupils have to isolate, teachers provide work in English, mathematics and foundation subjects that pupils can access at home. Should a whole year group bubble need to isolate, leaders plan for teachers to provide some tailored activities for pupils as well as directing families to other resources.

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

Yours sincerely

Daniel Lambert  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**