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07 January 2021

Matthew Shaw  
Headteacher  
King David Primary School  
Childwall Road  
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Merseyside  
L15 6WU

Dear Mr Shaw

### **Ofsted remote visit to King David Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Julie Barlow, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 27 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 and the deputy headteacher. 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 September, approximately six out of every 10 pupils have had to study from home for a period of two weeks. Pupils in one Year 4 class 'bubble' have been sent home twice. Children in one of the Reception class bubbles have been sent home on three occasions.
- All pupils are studying the usual range of subjects. Some curriculum content has been adapted so that pupils can cover the learning they missed in the spring and summer terms. You aim to return to the usual curriculum in the spring term 2021.
- Teachers have checked pupils' new starting points in reading. Teachers have found that pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 have forgotten some of the sounds that letters make. Staff are providing extra support to help pupils remember the phonic knowledge that they had learned previously.
- Teachers have recognised that pupils' use of vocabulary and their knowledge of grammar, punctuation and spelling in their writing are not as strong as they were prior to March 2020. Staff are helping pupils to develop their writing skills and are giving them more frequent opportunities to write.
- In mathematics, teachers have identified that pupils have forgotten some of the basic facts that they have previously been taught. Teachers are placing greater emphasis on number bonds in key stage 1, and multiplication facts in key stage 2. Staff are providing additional support for pupils who need more help to remember their number facts.

- In the wider curriculum, teachers have identified the subject content that pupils did not learn during the period when schools were only open to some pupils due to COVID-19 restrictions. You told us that teachers are making sure that any missed knowledge is being taught so that pupils are able to learn the whole of the planned curriculum.
- Your remote education offer includes online activities as well as paper-based learning packs. Younger pupils are given short, practical learning tasks that they can do with their parents, while older pupils are expected to learn more 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 Liverpool. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Steve Bentham  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**