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07 January 2021

Tom Garner  
Headteacher  
Fairhaven Primary School  
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Wordsley  
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West Midlands  
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Dear Mr Garner

### **Ofsted visit to Fairhaven Primary School**

Following my visit with Jane Spilsbury, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 9 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 and some of the senior leadership team. 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 opened to all pupils on 3 September 2020. The Year 1 class 'bubble' was isolating at the time of the visit. Earlier in the term, the Year 5/6 bubble was sent home for two weeks to self-isolate. In addition, a small number of pupils from other year groups have had to learn from home for short periods this term.
- Pupils are learning all their usual subjects, with some changes to the order of content where normal delivery has not been possible.
- Teachers carried out assessments in English and mathematics at the start of term to find out about pupils' knowledge and what they have remembered. They have used this information to plan their teaching.
- In reading, teachers have put more emphasis on helping pupils in key stage 1 to catch up with their phonics. The school is trying to encourage pupils to read more regularly with a reading reward programme.
- Teachers' recent assessments in mathematics highlighted that pupils needed extra support with fractions, geometry and multiplication tables. Teachers are using this information to plan teaching activities to help address these gaps in pupils' learning.
- In the wider curriculum, pupils are studying the full range of subjects. Extra-curricular activity clubs have continued as normal, although the maximum

number of pupils attending has had to be reduced. In physical education, swimming has been suspended.

- Pupils access remote learning digitally through the school's website. Work is posted online daily and is designed to be similar to the work pupils would usually do in class. Parents are invited to email photographs of their children's work so teachers can see what pupils have completed and provide feedback.

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

Yours sincerely

Tim Hill  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**