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07 January 2021

Julian Gorton  
Headteacher  
Shakespeare Primary School  
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Dear Mr Gorton

### **Ofsted remote visit to Shakespeare Primary School**

Following my remote visit with Matthew Vellensworth, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 26 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, the senior leadership team, curriculum leaders and your inclusion team. 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:**

- Approximately two in three children have had to study from home at some point since September 2020. At the time of the remote visit, one 'bubble' of Year 1 pupils and one bubble of Nursery children were isolating at home.
- All pupils are following their usual curriculum.
- Teachers are providing an increased focus on pupils' phonics knowledge and reading skills. They are also developing pupils' wider speech and language skills. This is because some pupils are less secure in these areas than they were previously.
- In mathematics, teachers are building pupils' understanding of number, where they have noticed some gaps in pupils' knowledge.
- Teachers are adapting the curriculum so that pupils can experience a range of activities. Leaders have purchased extra resources to support pupils' work in art. Pupils recently took part in a 'virtual' cricket competition, where their achievements in batting, bowling and fielding were shared online with other schools.
- Teachers are taking extra steps to build pupils' health and fitness. Teachers noticed that some children had less stamina than before when they returned

to school in September 2020. All pupils now take part in a 'daily mile' exercise routine.

- Leaders are giving an increased focus to the social and emotional well-being of pupils and families. This is because of the additional challenges that some pupils are experiencing at this time.
- Teachers set tasks and provide resources online when pupils are learning at home. Pupils can share work completed at home with their teachers. Teachers also provide pupils and their parents with packs of materials to work from 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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Leeds. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Kirtley  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**