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Mrs C Clare  
Acting Headteacher  
Park Community Primary School  
Robin Hoods Walk  
Boston  
Lincolnshire  
PE21 9LQ

Dear Mrs Clare

#### OFSTED MONITORING OF SCHOOLS WITH NOTICE TO IMPROVE

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 23 January, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

As a result of the inspection on 19 and 20 June 2006, the school was asked to improve the quality of teaching and learning and increase pupils' progress in Key Stage 2, particularly in Years 3 and 4 and in mathematics; to improve the effectiveness of senior leadership overall, and in Key Stage 2 and numeracy; and to communicate and consult with parents more effectively.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making inadequate progress in addressing the issues for improvement. Ofsted will continue to monitor the school's progress on the issue where improvement has so far been inadequate.

There is a detailed and suitable action plan with relevant strategies for improving teaching, learning and pupils' achievement. Appropriate steps have been taken to appoint a new numeracy co-ordinator and to provide essential training and support for her and for teachers through good local authority intervention and regular contact with key staff from the partner primary school. Significant improvement has been made to systems for recording

assessments of pupils' work, analysing pupils' strengths and weaknesses, and tracking their progress. However, the school's programme of lesson observations from the autumn term shows variation in the quality of teaching, particularly in Years 3 and 4. Action has been taken to improve this situation in the spring term.

The numeracy lessons observed on this visit were satisfactory overall, although there were good features in some of the teaching. Teachers' explanation was clear; they focused on key terms and encouraged pupils to explain how they had arrived at a particular answer. However, in these lessons, pupils' progress was only just satisfactory, and in some cases, pupils were working well below nationally expected levels. There are still significant gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and skills and these limit their progress. For some, this also affects their confidence, especially when working independently.

The school's own assessment data from the autumn term shows that, although standards are improving slowly, the standards of most pupils remain below nationally expected levels and the targets set for them by the school. At this stage, pupils' progress in numeracy is inadequate.

Much good work has been done to put systems in place for improvement in teaching, assessment and pupil progress. As yet, there is not sufficient good teaching in numeracy at Key Stage 2 to ensure that pupils' knowledge and understanding improves to the point where they make good enough progress to achieve their targets.

The senior leadership team has been reorganised and now represents all the main areas of responsibility across the school. The acting headteacher, who has been at the school since the beginning of January, has already built staff confidence within a short period of time and has accurately identified, in conjunction with the senior leaders, the key areas for action. Senior leaders are fully engaged in the monitoring and evaluation of their areas of responsibility. Pupils' work in numeracy and teachers' marking have been reviewed and relevant areas for improvement identified. However, systems for regular and rigorous evaluation of teaching are not yet fully in place. The new leaders of Key Stage 2 and numeracy are beginning to have an impact and progress in this area is satisfactory.

There is a comprehensive action plan to improve communication and consultation with parents. As yet, only parts of this have been implemented. The newsletter has been issued regularly. Two meetings for parents have taken place. The latest was welcomed by parents because they met governors, were able to ask questions openly and to express their concerns. The parent questionnaire conducted in the autumn term had a relatively low

response. Parents have confidence in the acting headteacher and already comment on higher expectations of pupils' behaviour and work. Progress on this issue is satisfactory.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Martin Cragg  
Her Majesty's Inspector