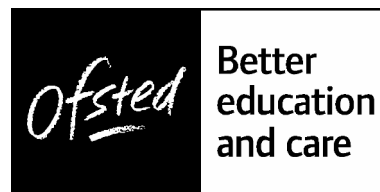


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Mrs A Husband  
The Headteacher  
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29 November 2006

Dear Mrs Husband

#### OFSTED MONITORING OF SCHOOLS WHOSE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS HAS BEEN JUDGED SATISFACTORY

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school with Pat Walsh HMI on 22 November 2006, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during our visit.

As a result of the inspection on 23 November 2005 the school was asked to improve the quality of teaching in Years 3 to 6 and to continue to raise standards in Key Stage 2. Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement.

Although pupils continue to achieve well in the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1, the school recognises that standards at Key Stage 2 are still too low. Overall standards are rising, although not as rapidly or as evenly as the school had hoped and expected. The legacy of pupils' uneven progress in recent years will take time to address, particularly in numeracy and in writing.

Targeted support for literacy and in science has had a positive impact on pupils' progress and attainment. Results in the most recent Key Stage 2 tests showed increases in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected Level 4 and the higher Level 5 in English. Results in science improved significantly in 2006, with 91% of pupils achieving at least Level 4. However, the school failed to reach its targets in both English and mathematics. Moreover, attainment in mathematics decreased when compared with the previous year, continuing the four year decline in results. The pupils' test results in mathematics were significantly lower than those assessed by the teachers. Despite some increase in the proportion of pupils achieving Level 5, higher

attaining pupils did not do well enough either in mathematics or in writing.

The school's monitoring indicates that the quality of teaching has strengthened since the last inspection. Lessons observed during the visit were at least satisfactory and mostly good. The best lessons are sharply focused on what the pupils will learn, with well planned pair and group work that enables all pupils to participate and provides good opportunities for teachers to assess the pupils' understanding and progress. Steps have been taken to strengthen assessment and target setting. All pupils have short term targets for numeracy and literacy, and procedures for tracking their progress in these subjects have also been strengthened. However, assessment information, including individual targets, is underused in lessons. Short term planning does not always plan sufficiently challenging outcomes for pupils with different abilities, and teachers do not routinely use individual targets to support pupils' learning or to guide improvement when marking their work. Although teachers now follow agreed procedures for planning and assessment, it is essential that they make more effective use of these to accelerate pupils' progress and make up for gaps in learning.

The headteacher is realistic about the school's strengths and areas for improvement. Staff have responded positively to the findings of the last inspection and have worked together to make improvements. The school has made effective use of external support to guide developments, particularly in mathematics, and improvements in literacy have been well led. School self-evaluation is accurate and development planning identifies sensible priorities and actions. The headteacher has managed staff well in order to introduce necessary changes. However, the overall quality of teaching would improve more quickly if the best practice was more widely adopted. In addition, monitoring needs to be more robust, so that the impact of actions and initiatives is evaluated rigorously and further developments are then suitably implemented. The school has the capacity and the climate to make further improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Brooker  
Her Majesty's Inspector