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Mrs T Austin  
The Headteacher  
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12 December 2006

Dear Mrs Austin

#### 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 30 November 2006, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please pass on my thanks to the chair of the governing body and the representative of the local authority who had discussions with me about the school. During my visit, I interviewed staff, talked to pupils, observed some teaching, and examined a range of appropriate documentation.

As a result of the inspection on 24 and 25 May 2006, the school was asked to: raise standards in English and mathematics and ensure that pupils use and develop their literacy and numeracy skills well in other subjects; develop a more balanced curriculum to cover subjects other than English and mathematics to greater depth and to enhance pupils' enjoyment of learning; and, develop further the use of attainment data by subject leaders so that they all keep a close check on pupils' progress and promote it.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement.

Standards in English and mathematics have risen considerably since the last inspection. In the end of Year 6 tests in 2005, they were significantly below average in English and below average in mathematics. In 2006, they were above average in both subjects. Standards also rose in science and were well above average. A particularly pleasing feature was the rise in the proportion of pupils attaining Level 5 in all subjects. These encouraging results demonstrate that the pupils made satisfactory progress. The school does not expect the results to be so strong in the national tests in 2007 because of the nature of the cohort and the legacy of previously unsatisfactory teaching for

some pupils. However, their standards have already risen since the start of this academic year. The school has made good progress in this area.

A number of factors account for the improvement in standards and achievement. Staffing is now stable and there is a real sense of collective responsibility and confidence for the future. The careful targeting of individual pupils, based on a precise use of assessment data, has resulted in focused and effective teaching. The school has also begun the process of broadening the curriculum. Interesting topic work provides the pupils with ample opportunities to develop their literacy skills and engages them more effectively in their learning in other subjects. They celebrate their learning in assemblies and apply it in school clubs. This is creating a happy and busy environment in which pupils value their learning. The school has rightly identified literacy as a priority in this process but acknowledges that planning for numeracy in the new curriculum now requires a clearer focus.

The role of subject leaders in the school is developing well. The senior team provides clear direction and monitors the work of the school with rigour and accuracy. Subject leaders are becoming more skilled at analysing assessment data to ensure that planning takes account of the needs of classes and individuals. They are developing their role as middle leaders in the school and there is a clearer understanding that planning for the acquisition of skills is more crucial to success than ensuring that topics are covered. They acknowledge that they have some way to go, but the new management structures and the quality of the leadership of the team have ensured that good progress has been made so far.

The local authority has provided the school with regular and effective support in addressing the areas for improvement. It balances this with an accurate assessment of the extent to which the school can take command of its own work.

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

Yours sincerely

Andrew Harrett  
Her Majesty's Inspector