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Mr A Andreo
The Headteacher
Sturry C of E Primary School
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Dear Mr Andreo

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 Tuesday 23 January 2007, for the time you gave to our discussions, and for the information which you provided during my visit. Would you also pass on my thanks to Mr Cowley, the chair of governors, for finding the time to meet with me.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection in June 2006, the school was asked to look at five areas for improvement: raising achievement in writing throughout the school and in mathematics and science in Years 3 to 6; improving the quality of teaching; planning more challenging work for higher attaining pupils; ensuring that targets on individual education plans are sufficiently focused; and, evaluating the continuing impact of improvements made.

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.

The school has rightly prioritised improving teaching and learning and has made good progress in this area. The school leadership team has closely monitored the quality of teaching and has implemented a number of strategies to improve pupils' learning. As a result, a positive picture is emerging. School and local authority monitoring indicates that all teaching is at least satisfactory and most is good. My visits to classrooms confirm that there is much good practice. Pupils have good attitudes to learning and say they enjoy lessons. They know their targets and are clear about what they need to do to improve their work. Pupils were very positive about the impact their targets are having on their progress and how they help them focus on

what they need to learn next. In addition, teachers are making good use of a range of strategies and resources such as word banks. These improvements, linked to high expectations and good behaviour, are beginning to have a positive impact on pupils' progress.

The school has worked hard to raise standards in writing. Since the last inspection the rate of progress in most year groups has been good, but the picture across the school is uneven with pupils in Years 3 and 4 not doing as well. Progress with raising achievement in mathematics and science is satisfactory.

The school has made good progress in ensuring a better match of work to the needs of learners, including the more able. Teachers' planning clearly identifies pupils' needs and links these well to teaching strategies and a good range of resources to support learning. This is a clear improvement on earlier practice when work did not meet learners' needs well enough.

The school is also meeting the needs of less able pupils more effectively through ensuring that individual education plans (IEPs) are clear and provide enough guidance to enable teachers and teaching assistants to give appropriate support. The school's special educational needs coordinator monitors the support provided in classrooms and teachers report weekly on progress against pupils' IEP targets.

The school has put a range of strategies and initiatives in place to raise standards and accelerate the progress pupils make. The leadership team has a clear understanding of the impact of these changes in terms of its provision. For example, teaching is monitored carefully and the school has correctly identified recent improvements. However, the school's systems for tracking the progress pupils make do not provide a sufficiently full picture. Assessment data for mathematics for pupils in Years 3 and 4 is not available in a form which is consistent with other year groups and does not provide clear enough information about progress.

Local authority advisors and consultants have supported the school well and have made a good contribution to school improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Robert Lovett

Robert Lovett
Her Majesty's Inspector