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6 July 2007

Mr John Gill
The Headteacher
Boyton Community Primary School
Launceston
Cornwall
PL15 9RJ

Dear Mr Gill

Ofsted Monitoring of Grade 3 Schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on Tuesday 26 June 2007, 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 pupils, staff and governors who spent time talking to 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 on Wednesday 10 May 2006, the school was asked to:

- make better use of analysis and information gathering to strengthen the school's evaluation of its own performance
- improve the teaching of science, particularly scientific enquiry skills, through better curriculum planning
- help teachers plan work which meets all pupils' needs
- provide the pupils with clear academic guidance
- continue to work with parents to improve attendance.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making good progress with improving all of the main areas highlighted in its last inspection.

Make better use of analysis and information gathering to strengthen the school's evaluation of its own performance.

The school has moved forward at a good pace over the last year in implementing new assessment systems. Pupils' performance is now tracked across the year.

Teachers use this information well to pick up on weaknesses in pupils' work and as a means of deciding where individuals need extra support. This system works well. For example, an observation of a Key Stage 2 mathematics 'booster group' showed pupils achieving well and strengthening their confidence in learning. Within the tracking system, teachers record information about pupils' progress on two occasions during the year. The school recognises rightly the need to record progress on a more frequent basis. This would be a good next step towards giving an even clearer picture about how well pupils are achieving.

Staff and governors make good use of assessment information both from the school's performance tracking system and nationally produced data to help inform the evaluation of the school's overall performance. Staff and governors analyse and discuss performance data on a regular basis. Discussion with them shows that they have a clear and accurate view of the school's performance. The close ties with the local community and regular discussions with pupils help the school weigh the views of all of its stakeholders very carefully. Good communication through newsletters and meetings means that everyone in the school community is kept fully informed and involved in the processes of self-evaluation and school development.

Improve the teaching of science, particularly scientific enquiry skills, through better curriculum planning.

Teaching in science has been significantly strengthened and good progress has been made in improving this area. Year 6 pupils talked enthusiastically about the projects they have undertaken to design, test and investigate how wind turbines and hovercrafts work. Their books show clear evidence of them gaining a good understanding of how to go about setting up an investigation. An interesting range of projects is planned for pupils during the year. Pupils' work is further enhanced through the focus given to science during visits made out of school, for example on a beach study. Year 6 pupils now achieve well in this subject and are on course to attain above average standards. The recording of science investigations is not always as clear as it could be.

Help teachers plan work which meets all pupils' needs.

The improvements made with assessment and target setting have resulted in the teachers making good improvements to their planning. Lessons show that different groups of pupils are catered for effectively, with planning showing work being finely tuned to the different age groups and ability levels. The improvements made to assessment, planning and target setting are making a clear impact on the standards achieved. For example, Year 6 pupils' work, the recently completed national tests, and the school's assessment information indicate that all groups of pupils have progressed well this year and are on course to reach above average levels in English, mathematics and science.

Provide the pupils with clear academic guidance.

The school has made good improvement in this area. The new found clarity in assessment information is used effectively to set clear targets for individual pupils. Year 6 pupils showed a clear understanding about how well they are doing, their current level of performance, and exactly what is required for them to move to the next level. For example, one pupil commented, 'I know I have to get better at analysing data and reaching conclusions.' The school is very proactive in seeking ways to improve the academic guidance for all individual pupils. For example, the use of teaching assistants has been increased to enhance the potential for focused individual guidance and support. This was seen to be working well with Reception age children withdrawn from the Key Stage 1 class to work on information and communication technology and phonics work. Teachers mark pupils' work regularly. However, the marking does not always give pupils a clear idea about how they could improve.

Continue to work with parents to improve attendance.

The school has made good progress with improving pupils' attendance. Increased measures to hold discussions with parents, more detailed and frequent information in newsletters and school reports, and systems to reward pupils for good attendance have all served to emphasise the importance of attendance. As a result, attendance figures have improved from being below average to being only slightly below average. The school realises correctly that there remains a need to sustain the current approaches to keep things improving and to dissuade families from taking holidays during term time.

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

Yours sincerely

Laurie Lewin
Additional Inspector