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Mr D Marklew
The Headteacher
Winshill Primary School
Brough Road
Burton-on-Trent
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Dear Mr Marklew

Ofsted monitoring of schools with a Notice to Improve

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 4 October 2007, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please convey my thanks also to the subject leaders and governors I met with.

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 8 and 9 January 2007, the school was asked to:

- raise standards in English, mathematics and science throughout the school
- improve the overall quality of teaching by ensuring that lesson activities are matched to the needs of all pupils so that all pupils do as well as they should
- develop the management roles of all staff so they have a better understanding of their role in raising standards and achievement.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress.

Teachers have been trained in planning activities matched to the different starting points of individual pupils within the same class. There is now a consistent approach to planning work across the school. Pupils' books and the lessons seen show that work appropriate to the needs of pupils of different abilities is now being provided. A new system for giving pupils targets and guidance on how they can improve has been put in place. Teachers are trying hard to meet the new expectations of them, but there are inconsistencies in their work arising from the relatively recent introduction of some initiatives. For instance, some pupils were unclear about what the new target setting system meant for them personally. In some classes, a few

pupils were seen to be off task and not working as hard as they might. However, the quality of teaching and learning has improved and is now mostly satisfactory and sometimes better.

Improved teaching and learning is enabling pupils to make better progress and achievement is now satisfactory. Results in the national tests last summer show standards have improved to below average. There have been marked improvements in science and in writing and more modest improvements in reading and mathematics.

The local authority (LA) has provided considerable extra support to the school. This includes the provision of consultants, arranging to second a deputy headteacher from another school, and extra funding to release the headteacher from some of his teaching commitments. The consultants have worked alongside subject leaders, coaching them in the various aspects of their role. Subject leaders are now monitoring the quality of planning and evaluating test results and work in pupils' books, as well as tracking the progress of individual pupils to identify any who might fall behind. There are plans for them to become more involved in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of teaching and learning in their subject. Subject leaders are on a steep learning curve but have made a good start in setting up processes and procedures.

The governors have established procedures to enable them to monitor effectively the work of the school. They recognise that these are in the early stages still and are seeking training to help them with specific aspects of their role. Nevertheless, governors are aware of the improvements the school has made and are challenging it to do better.

Good leadership from the headteacher and deputy headteacher, well supported by the governors and LA, is bringing about improvement. There is a good team ethos amongst the staff and a shared commitment to raising standards. The school has introduced good systems but is still in the process of making them work consistently.

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

Yours sincerely

David Anstead
Her Majesty's Inspector