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Miss Nicola Mardlin, Headteacher
Reigate Primary School
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Derbyshire
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Dear Miss Mardlin

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 16 September 2008, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Thanks also to those staff and pupils who agreed to meet with me and the two representatives of the governing body who gave up their time. The most significant change since the last inspection in February 2008 is the changes in teaching staff and in some members of the senior leadership team this term.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

As a result of the inspection on 13 – 14 February 2008, the school was asked to:

- Raise the overall achievement and standards, particularly in English, mathematics and science at Key Stage 2
- Ensure that assessment information is sufficient, recorded and analysed enabling teachers to track pupils' progress and standards of attainment accurately
- Improve teachers' skills in the use of assessment information so that work set meets the learning needs of each pupil fully
- Ensure the curriculum is relevant to pupils' needs and places greater emphasis on developing basic skills across the full range of subjects
- Improve the leadership skills of key staff so that the school's performance and actions taken are monitored and evaluated accurately

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 and in raising the pupils' achievement.

For the past two terms, and since the Notice to Improve, the school has had a focus on raising standards in reading and writing. School records show that there were rises in both these areas by the end of the summer term with a particularly

significant rise in Key Stage 2. The school recognises that standards in writing still remain below what is expected nationally. The focus on literacy, and a previous lack of use of assessment information and inaccurate data, has had an impact on mathematics, where standards have decreased further. The school has already taken steps to address this by improving co-ordination and leadership in this subject area, but it still has more work to do. The impact of having a creative curriculum with science being subsumed within wider topics and taught alongside other subject areas has had an impact on standards in science. Not enough pupils gained the nationally expected levels or the higher levels, according to school data. The school has addressed this issue by introducing a new curriculum policy and teaching science and other foundation subjects as separate areas. The new science curriculum leader is beginning to monitor science more closely and with more accurate data. Poor standards will lead to inadequate judgements at the next inspection but the work being currently undertaken is promising and staff are aware of the steps that need to be taken and the good practice that needs to be maintained.

Much work has been done to improve the quality of teaching and learning since the Notice to Improve with a view to improving achievement and standards. Half of the lessons are good or better, although the school has not completely eradicated the small number of inadequate lessons. The school continues to develop the consistency across the school. This is evolving with new staff to the school this term, improved use of data to set pupils' targets, more consistent planning and methodology, assessing for learning during the lessons, and better guidance to pupils through marking their work and showing them how to improve. The school now have a planned system for monitoring teaching and learning and an ambitious target to raise the quality of teaching.

The impact of the local authority's statement of action has been satisfactory. The School Improvement Officer is now beginning to understand the complexities of the school. A particularly successful element of the local authority's involvement has been the support provided to the school's governing body and the input of local authority consultants through the school's recent participation in the Improving Support Programme. The school now has an effective Action Plan to work through which is providing sensible priorities and a good steer to school improvement.

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

Yours sincerely

Jane Melbourne
Her Majesty's Inspector