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Mrs S Brockwell  
Headteacher  
Anston Park Infant School  
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Dear Mrs Brockwell

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in English

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 07 July 2008 to look at work in English.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: observations of three lessons, examples of pupils' writing and discussions with pupils and staff.

Features of good practice observed

- The school makes imaginative and purposeful use of popular culture, including film and television, to engage the interest of pupils of all ages. Whether intently discussing what they could see and hear in the final sequence of "ET", or role playing the journey through space made in "Major Tom", pupils were fascinated by their lessons and committed to doing their best.
- Teaching develops the pupils' visual literacy very well. Expertly managed speaking and listening activities lead to thoughtful, original and skilful writing. This was exemplified from a young age; for example, in the Reception class, activities based on frozen frames from an episode of "Bob the Builder" had stimulated remarkable quality in the pupils' talk and writing.
- Boys as well as girls develop a lively interest in writing, because the richly stimulating curriculum is combined with excellent relationships and a very positive climate for learning. This was illustrated well in a Year 2 lesson which felt like a writing workshop. Boys were fully absorbed in describing

their response to the departure of ET. This carried over into sustained concentration during writing time and pride in sharing their work.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop English in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Susan Bowles  
Her Majesty's Inspector