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Pat Brown
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Dear Mrs Brown

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 15 December 2009, 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 also gave up their time to meet with me.

As a result of the inspection on 11 September 2008, the school was asked to:

- raise standards in writing at Key Stage 1 and mathematics through the school
- improve the quality of teaching by ensuring lesson plans have a sharp focus on what the pupils will learn rather than on what they are going to do
- ensure leaders and managers at all levels are more rigorous in monitoring and evaluating the work of the school, particularly in the assessment of pupils' progress
- Improve outdoor provision for the youngest children.

Since the last inspection there have been several staff changes, including members of the senior leadership team.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

Pupils' achievement is good. Standards are rising. The invalidated results for national tests in 2009 were slightly above average for English, mathematics and science by Year 6. Standards in mathematics improved well from 2008. Results for core subjects at Key Stage 1 are average and the declining trend in writing has been arrested. The standards of work seen in lessons and in the school's data indicate a continuing trend of improvement. Pupils' progress is accelerating throughout the school. It is often good because of the focused use of assessments and good



teaching now in evidence. Occasionally, more able pupils are not independent enough in organising their work and this limits their progress. Pupils take a pride in their work and present it well. They are hard working and extremely well behaved. They are making good use of reference material such as the 'learning wall' and 'information mats' to improve their own work.

The quality of teaching observed during my visit was consistently good. Lesson plans set out precise criteria for pupils of different abilities to achieve. Teachers bring learning to life through role play, games and good use of information and communication technology. Occasionally, they provide too much direction rather than letting pupils work things out for themselves. The improvements to the outdoor provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage are particularly good. They have been very well planned and reflect the leadership's clear vision and the strong support of the governing body.

A rigorous cycle of lesson and achievement monitoring has been successfully implemented by all of the senior leadership and has led to direct improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. An efficient new system to closely track pupils' achievement is at the heart of developments. Senior leaders hold regular meetings with teachers to discuss the progress of groups of pupils and set realistic and challenging targets for improvement. Teachers now have a clear understanding of what pupils are capable of and have raised their expectations accordingly. Subject leaders have used the good support of the local authority through, for example, the Improving Schools Programme to build firm and realistic plans for future action. Aspects of the school's work are now used as models of good practice by the local authority. The increasing sustained capacity for improvement is further supported by the robust action of the governing body since the last inspection. They thoroughly overhauled their monitoring systems to include a wider range of independent data on achievement and progress and more first-hand information. They provide intelligent and pragmatic challenge and support to the senior leadership team.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Clark
Additional Inspector

Lead inspector