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Mrs J Fisher
Acting Headteacher
Bordesley Village Primary School and Children's Centre
Emmeline Street
Bordesley Village
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B9 4NG

Dear Mrs Fisher

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 Tuesday 14 September 2010 and for the information which you provided during my visit. I would be grateful if you would pass on my thanks to the staff and pupils who met me, the Chair of the Governing Body and the representative from the local authority.

Since 9 September 2010, the substantive headteacher has gone on sick leave and the deputy is currently acting as the headteacher. Since the January inspection three members of staff have left.

As a result of the inspection on 13–14 January 2010, the school was asked to:

- raise achievement in pupils' basic skills by improving the quality of teaching and learning so that it is good or better;
- improve pupils' rates of attendance and punctuality further by continuing to work with all those responsible for ensuring they attend school regularly.

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.

The most recent test results for seven years olds in reading, writing and mathematics show an improvement from the 2009 results. The proportion of pupils attaining the higher Level 3 in all these three aspects of learning has risen significantly. The 2010 statutory test results at the end of Year 6 remained well below the national average in English, mathematics and science. However, from their starting points, very many pupils made satisfactory progress in English and the more able were successful in attaining the higher Level 5 in this subject.



Achievement in mathematics was inadequate. The school is receiving targeted support to improve pupils' achievement in mathematics but the impact has yet to be seen in most year groups. The senior leaders have a good grasp of pupils' progress and are increasingly effective in ensuring that teachers use this information to improve pupils' achievement. However, some inconsistencies remain in the extent to which pupil progress information is used by teachers to plan the next steps in learning.

The school's monitoring information indicates that inadequate teaching has been largely eradicated and this view was supported by evidence seen in lessons and in pupils' books during this inspection. Although there is some success in improving the quality of teaching, much remains to be done to address the legacy of low standards of attainment, through an increase in the proportion of high quality teaching. In this inspection, effective learning was seen when pupils were actively engaged in their learning and had challenging tasks which were carried out at a brisk pace. Skilful use of questioning by teachers helped to ensure that pupils' misconceptions in understanding were corrected. The quality of learning was less effective when tasks were not challenging enough. Guidance on how pupils can improve their work further is increasingly consistent and pupils are responding positively to a recently introduced strategy for marking. Adjustments made to the curriculum mean that pupils have many more opportunities to practise their literacy and numeracy skills across a range of interesting topic work.

Senior leaders participated fully in a review of the quality of teaching and learning, carried out by the local authority in the summer term 2010. Joint observations with senior leaders are ensuring consistency in the forming of judgements and a clear understanding about where further improvement is required. The monitoring and evaluation of teaching by senior leaders are now more closely focused on how well pupils are succeeding in their learning. The process of evaluation is increasingly involving middle leaders to extend a sense of ownership and accountability beyond senior leadership.

There is greater awareness among pupils, parents and carers about the consequences of absence and the school is working well with the local authority welfare services to address specific issues. The result is that the rate of attendance has risen sharply since the last inspection and there is a strong commitment to ensure that the overall rate of attendance continues to rise to at least match the national average.

Overall, the local authority is providing a suitable level of challenge and support, in line with the action and evaluation identified in its statement of action, which itself fulfils requirements. Advice provided by advisers and consultants in the use of assessment as a tool for improving teaching and learning is playing a significant part in securing pupils' better achievement.

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

Dilip Kadodwala
Her Majesty's Inspector

