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Mr D Lewin
The Headteacher
Wood Farm Primary School
Titup Hall Drive
Headington
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX3 8QQ

Dear Mr Lewin

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of Wood Farm Primary School

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 30 September 2010, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please also pass on my thanks to all those I spoke to during the visit, including the pupils, the chair of governors, the School Improvement Partner and your staff.

Since the last inspection four new members of staff have been appointed to replace four who have left. New accommodation is being constructed on site.

As a result of the inspection on 25–26 February 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter.

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

There has been good improvement in pupils' attainment, learning and progress. From the lesson observations, the school's tracking data and rigorous teacher assessments, most pupils make good progress in class and are on course to exceed their challenging targets. Pupils' attainment on entry is well below what is expected nationally, and while their attainment is broadly average by the end of Key Stage 2, this represents good progress throughout the school. There has been satisfactory progress in enabling the higher-attainers to achieve the higher standards.

The headteacher, with excellent support from other leaders in the school, has put in place a wide range of strategies to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and



pupils' learning in class. Leaders regularly observe teachers working in their classroom and track their performance over time to ensure that the quality of teaching across the school improves. The school has benefited greatly from its links with another school to focus tightly on making the quality of teaching better, and also giving leaders greater confidence to address areas of underperformance identified at the previous inspection. The local authority and School Improvement partner have also provided good support to transform the quality of leadership in the school so that school improvement has been rapid and is being sustained.

The headteacher has introduced stronger performance targets for teachers. Consequently, the quality of teaching has improved and most of it is now good. There are some outstanding features in some of the better teaching. Teachers question pupils and expect more detailed answers. There is clear evidence in the school of improved rigour in the use of assessment information and tracking procedures for monitoring pupils' progress across the school. All teachers are committed to this and teachers demonstrate their thorough knowledge of individual pupils in their class. Lesson planning is more detailed and is used as a working document so that teachers can plan the next stages in learning. In group work, tasks given to pupils are more appropriate for their ability, although, at certain times, more-able pupils are not challenged enough. Most lessons start with a clear objective for learning and pupils are reminded what will make it a successful learning experience for them. Teaching assistants are deployed well and support groups following the teachers' instructions and assess a group of pupils at work.

Pupils' behaviour is good and pupils listen attentively and work hard when asked. This is because teaching is more highly focused on the needs of the individual pupils and lessons have been made more exciting and relevant to the pupils. There are more opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills. Pupils say they really enjoy coming to school. They were very enthusiastic about their work and were keen to show how well they were doing. The provision for care, guidance and support remains strong and pupils said they felt safe at school. Safeguarding procedures remain good.

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

Peter Limm
Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex

The areas for improvement identified during the inspection which took place in February 2009

- Increase the proportion of good and better teaching to accelerate pupils' progress and raise standards.
- Ensure that teachers give higher-attainers more opportunities to work independently and use their initiative in order to accelerate their progress.
- Develop the skills of leaders at all levels in monitoring and evaluating new initiatives in order to sustain recent improvements in achievement.

