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Michelle Easthope
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Easthope

Ofsted visit to Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

Following my visit with Rob Hackfath, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 14 October 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you and your deputy headteacher. You are the senior leader responsible for safeguarding at the school. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- The school opened to all pupils on Wednesday 2 September 2020.
- Attendance is broadly in line with where you would expect it to be for this time of year. You contacted parents at the end of the summer term to inform them of the school's attendance arrangements from September.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects. Teachers identified key knowledge and skills from the previous year which had yet to be taught. They plan to include this content in the current curriculum.
- Teachers have recently conducted baseline tests with pupils in English and mathematics. You are using teaching assistants to help those pupils who have fallen behind in their learning.
- Reading remains a priority. Teachers have assessed all pupils to identify what gaps they have in their use of sounds and understanding of words. You have bought new books to support whole-class reading and wider links to the curriculum.
- Teachers are focusing on topics in mathematics where pupils need further support, such as prime and cube numbers.
- You have emphasised the teaching of personal, social and health education in the wider curriculum. This is because you want pupils to re-establish and develop relationships with staff and peers.

- Remote learning plans are in place should pupils need to isolate or there are further local restrictions. Your aim is to provide similar work to that of the current curriculum.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the director of education for the diocese of Lichfield, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Staffordshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Mark Howes
Her Majesty's Inspector