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Caroline Crosdale
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Crosdale

Ofsted visit to Brentside Primary School

Following my visit with Sarah Murphy, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 6 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 the assistant headteacher. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures you have 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 on 3 September 2020 to pupils in Years 1 to 6. Children in Nursery and Reception returned fully on 21 September 2020 after a phased start. All pupils in attendance are full time.
- Attendance is lower than it would normally be at this time of year. The difference is due to families self-isolating. There were no year-group 'bubbles' isolating at the time of the visit. You have provided parents with a flowchart to explain the actions they should take if their child is unwell.
- Pupils are taught their usual range of subjects. However, some changes have been made to curriculum content. For example, contact sports are not being taught, but pupils are entering timed results from physical challenges in an online competition instead. Leaders expect to be delivering the full curriculum by summer 2021.
- When pupils returned in September, you identified some gaps in their reading and vocabulary. You explained that many pupils speak English as an additional language and some have not read regularly. Consequently, you are providing daily reading sessions.
- In mathematics, teachers also checked what pupils remember. They found gaps in pupils' knowledge of shape, space and measure. Support staff with skills in mathematics have been deployed to provide practical interventions.
- Remote learning is being provided as a matter of course. The activities uploaded by teachers align with the curriculum being taught in school. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities have remote learning activities personalised to their needs.

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 governing body, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Ealing. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Alison Colenso
Her Majesty's Inspector