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Julian Churchill
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Dear Mr Churchill

Ofsted remote visit to Heatherlands Primary School

Following my remote visit with Heather Barraclough, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 1 December 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. Following changes to government guidance and the imposition of COVID-19 (coronavirus) lockdown restrictions, we made this visit remotely to reduce pressure on the school.

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, the senior leadership team and the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust. We did not speak to pupils.

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 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:

- There was one 'bubble' isolating at the time of the visit. This was in Year 6. Approximately one out of every eight pupils has had to work from home for short periods since the start of term.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects.
- You have checked pupils' new starting points. You are adapting the curriculum to accommodate any gaps identified in pupils' knowledge.
- More reading is taking place. In Years 1 and 2, phonics is a priority. In writing, pupils in Year 6 are revisiting presentation skills, handwriting and spelling.
- In mathematics, pupils are concentrating on arithmetic and place value. Older pupils are revisiting using their mathematical skills to solve problems.
- In computing, pupils in Year 2 are catching up on coding and, in Year 4, animation.
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education has a high profile. You say that this is to support pupils' mental health and well-being.
- Children in Reception have taken a longer time than usual to settle. Many are not yet ready for learning.
- Remote learning is a multimedia-based approach. Pupils' learning at home follows their daily timetable. Pupils access work from a digital platform. They

view lessons recorded by their own teachers and some on professional websites. You provide learning work packs when necessary.

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 Coastal Learning Partnership multi-academy trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Maddocks
Her Majesty's Inspector