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Niki Rogers
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Dear Mrs Rogers

Ofsted remote visit to St Just Primary School

Following my remote visit with Iain Freeland, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 10 November 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, the special educational needs coordinator and curriculum leaders. 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:

- Since the start of term, no pupils have needed to work from home due to COVID-19.
- All pupils are studying the full range of subjects.
- Since September 2020, leaders have used assessments to identify gaps in pupils' knowledge. As a result, teachers have adapted planning and teaching to review and re-teach any content that pupils missed during the spring and summer terms.
- In the first half term, leaders prioritised additional support for pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 to ensure they are prepared for future national assessments.
- Since all pupils returned to school, reading has been given a higher priority. Pupils are given the opportunity to practise through daily reading. In addition, leaders have employed an additional teacher to provide small-group teaching and other support to specific pupils when required.
- In mathematics, assessments have identified gaps in pupils' basic knowledge, such as counting and multiplication. Teachers have adapted their planning

accordingly to prioritise securing and building pupils' fluency. For example, each lesson begins with activities for pupils to practise mathematical skills.

- Leaders have made adaptations in the wider curriculum to provide pupils with the same experiences they would normally have. For example, they have plans to conduct a Christmas performance this year, using audio and video recordings.
- Leaders have prepared a two-week curriculum for pupils who need to self-isolate. This curriculum is based around the book each year group is studying. The pack pupils take home includes a copy of this book as well as paper resources for mathematics and spelling. In addition, pupils have access to a number of online programmes to support remote learning.

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 Truro and Penwith Academy Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Cornwall. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Gibbs
Her Majesty's Inspector