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5 January 2021

Louise Rhodes  
Headteacher  
Braishfield Primary School  
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Hampshire  
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Dear Mrs Rhodes

### **Ofsted visit to Braishfield Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 10 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.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. I did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and was 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, I spoke to you. I 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. I 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.

I 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, the inspector noted that:**

- Earlier this term, the Year 3 and 4 pupil 'bubble' had to learn remotely for a week, following a positive case of COVID-19. Around half of the pupils have had to learn from home at some point since September while they wait for test results or need to self-isolate.
- For the first half term, leaders temporarily removed religious education, geography and French from the curriculum. This was to allow more time for the teaching of mathematics, English, physical education and personal, social and health education.
- This term, additional time has been allocated to the teaching of art, drama and music, to support pupils' well-being. Children in the early years are spending more time on activities that support their communication and physical development. Leaders aim for pupils to return to the normal curriculum by January 2021.
- Staff have used a range of tests and assessments to check pupils' knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics. In other subjects, teachers are assessing pupils' knowledge by questioning in class and by checking the work that pupils' complete.
- Pupils struggled, initially, to read long and complicated texts. More time has been given to the teaching of reading to improve pupils' knowledge of inference and deduction. A small group of pupils are receiving additional teaching in phonics to recap some of the knowledge they have forgotten.

- Some pupils are struggling to recall the basics of mental and written calculation. Staff have spent more time teaching this content than they usually would this term. Mathematics lessons are often delivered by two teachers to provide more individual support for pupils.
- Pupils that are self-isolating can access their work online. Tasks, a suggested timetable and an explanatory video from the class teacher are uploaded at the start of the day. Pupils complete their work and submit this for their teacher to check.

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 Hampshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Lambert  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**