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27 November 2012

Mrs C Wagstaff  
Headteacher  
Heathlands Primary School  
Ransom Road  
Rainworth  
Mansfield  
NG21 0DJ

Dear Mrs Wagstaff

### **Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Heathlands Primary School**

Following my visit to your school on 26 November 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in September 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and deputy headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and one other governor, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement plan and records of the outcomes of monitoring activities were evaluated. The inspector visited all classes, talked to pupils and looked at a sample of their books.

### **Context**

The numeracy coordinator is currently absent through illness. A temporary teacher has been appointed to undertake the coordinator's teaching duties and another teacher is taking on the role as temporary numeracy coordinator.

## **Main findings**

Plans for improvement are in place and are being acted upon with urgency. They include all the areas identified at the last inspection and show medium-term pupil achievement targets. However, the plans do not have regular short-term checks to enable the school's leaders and the governing body to be sure that pupils are on course to make the rapid progress necessary.

The school's leaders and governing body are aware that there remains a small amount of inadequate teaching and some that still requires improvement. However, lesson observations and checks on pupils' work in books undertaken by the school's leaders and local authority confirm that the quality of teaching is improving in most classes and pupils' progress is getting faster.

In-school training and partnership with a local school are providing the school's leaders with opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The school has reacted swiftly to the absence of the numeracy coordinator and training is in place for another teacher to develop her skills and take on the temporary role. The governing body is taking a more active role in checking on their areas of responsibility through visits to the school and discussions with staff.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommend that further action is taken to:

- eradicate all inadequate teaching as a matter of urgency
- ensure that the plans for improvement show regular short-term checks
- develop the leadership skills of the temporary numeracy coordinator.

Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection.

## **External support**

The local authority has supported the headteacher well with her drive for school improvement. The links with the local partner school are beginning to provide additional support to improve teaching and develop the skills of subject leaders.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire.

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**