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Joanne Weight
Headteacher
Thompson Primary School
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Dear Mrs Weight

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Thompson Primary School, Norfolk

Following my visit to your school on 13 May 2013, 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 February 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the teaching staff, two parent governors and a representative of the local authority. The school action plan was evaluated. The inspector looked at the headteacher's recent observations of teaching and at a small sample of pupils' written work. The inspector walked round lessons with the headteacher to look at improvements in teaching since the section 5 inspection.

Context

There have been no changes in teaching staff since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

The school has responded quickly to the points for improvement raised in the section 5 inspection. The action plan is clear about when targets will be completed. The

headteacher has worked with teachers to review pupils' individual learning targets. As a result teachers have higher expectations for what pupils can learn in lessons and standards in reading, writing and mathematics are beginning to improve. The headteacher has watched all the teachers teach and given useful guidance on how they can improve their teaching. One outcome of this is that the work given to pupils is at the right level for their ability. The school acknowledges that there are still improvements to be made as teachers do not always make opportunities to check pupils' understanding of new learning at different points during the lesson. Teachers' marking has improved but it is still not as helpful as it could be. This is because they do not always explain clearly enough what pupils must do to get to the next level. Furthermore, pupils are not given enough time to act on teachers' comments in the next lesson. Other adults working alongside teachers are due to have training, later this term, to improve their work.

The governors and headteacher have reviewed systems for collecting information about pupils' progress. As a result governors, senior leaders and teachers have a much clearer understanding of the progress all groups of pupils make, including those who receive extra funding. The school has taken action to improve information to parents through the school website and Facebook pages. They have kept parents up-to-date about any changes in teaching staff.

Senior leaders and governors have begun to take action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Following the visit to the school, HMI recommends that further action is taken to strengthen improvements the school has put in place including making sure:

- teachers check pupils' understanding throughout lessons
- marking in pupils' books explains next steps in learning very clearly
- pupils are always given enough time to improve their work during lessons.

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

External support

The school is using external support from the local authority and is making links with an outstanding school. This is at the early stage of development.

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

Yours sincerely

Julie Winyard
Her Majesty's Inspector