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Mr S Wigley
The Headteacher
Studley Green Primary School
Westfield Road
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Dear Mr Wigley

Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 26 March 2008, for the time you gave to our phone discussions, and for the information which you provided before and during my visit. Please also pass on my thanks to the staff we interviewed and, of course, the pupils.

As you explained when we met, the school has undergone a change of deputy headteacher since the last inspection but in general there is a full complement of staff, with a good blend of experienced teachers and those new to the profession.

This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website. Please inform the Regional Inspection Service Provider of any factual inaccuracies within 24 hours of the receipt of this letter.

As a result of the inspection on 26 and 27 September 2006, the school was asked to:

- raise the rate of progress by ensuring that all teaching is lively and stimulating and motivates pupils to do their best
- ensure that all pupils are given sufficient guidance to help them improve their work
- develop the role of subject leaders in monitoring and supporting the work in their subjects.

Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievement.

The school's results at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2007 were disappointing following a rising trend over the previous three years. Standards remained well below average. However, data generated by the school is now more rigorous and regular assessments take place which show that the expected outcomes for pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2008 will represent a marked improvement on those for 2007.

Although these results will still be low by national standards, better progress has been achieved by many pupils. Even where pupils appear to make slow progress, this represents good achievement for them considering the learning difficulties and/or disabilities they are trying hard to overcome.

The school has focused well on improving the quality of teaching in all classes. It has used outside consultants effectively to disseminate and embed good practice in lesson planning and match stimulating activities to the varying needs of individual pupils. As a consequence, pupils say they really enjoy their lessons. They value the increased opportunities to discuss their ideas in small groups and demonstrate what they know, using interactive whiteboards to talk through their answers with the whole class. Lessons observed were all at least good and one was outstanding, representing good improvement since the last inspection.

Pupils are now much clearer about their targets and what they need to do to achieve them. The revised marking policy is improving the quality of marking of pupils' work, and teachers' comments are much more informative about how pupils can improve and learn from their mistakes. Some pupils have been part of a project to help them focus hard on personal learning targets and they spoke impressively about their experience of this and how they felt much more confident in school as a result. Teachers also provide more opportunities for pupils to evaluate their own work and to celebrate the success of their peers, as well as encouraging pupils to share their answers with others.

The school is making satisfactory progress in developing the role of subject leaders. There has been good support from the local authority in enabling the science leader to develop effective strategies and schemes of work which will be introduced fully in September 2008. The school has been involved in a pilot national programme for providing intensive support to help school leaders develop their skills and this has had a positive impact in relation to the leadership and management of literacy and numeracy. These improvements are only just beginning to cascade down to other subjects in the school.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Limm
Her Majesty's Inspector