

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T 0300 123 1231
www.gov.uk/ofsted



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Gill Humphriss
Executive Headteacher
Heathcote Primary School
Vickers Way
Heathcote
Warwick
Warwickshire
CV34 7AP

Dear Mrs Humphriss

Ofsted visit to Heathcote primary school

Following my visit with Bianka Zemke, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 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.

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 and four members of the senior leadership team. We 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. 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:

- The school opened fully for all pupils on 2 September 2020. You told us that pupils' attendance since the beginning of the autumn term is higher than at this time last year.
- Pupils are studying their usual range of subjects, including music, physical education and Spanish. You have increased the opportunities for pupils to use outdoor learning spaces. Pupils have been on school trips, such as to the zoo, as part of their learning.
- You have checked pupils' understanding in a range of subjects. Based on this information, you are covering some knowledge and skills that pupils could not cover during the period when schools were only open to some children due to COVID-19 restrictions, such as some elements of scientific investigative work.
- In key stage 1, you have assessed pupils' phonic knowledge. This information has been used to plan the phonics teaching. You have purchased more phonics reading books. Pupils read every day in school.
- In mathematics, you are checking that pupils are using correct mathematical language. Pupils in key stage 1 are focusing on key number skills.
- You developed a remote-learning package before the period when schools were only open to some children due to COVID-19 restrictions. You informed parents about how to use the learning resources. Where needed, pupils were provided with paper-based packages and additional resources to complete the

work set. You plan to develop remote learning further, by providing video lessons, especially for phonics and mathematics teaching.

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 chair of the board of trustees, and the chief executive officer of the Community Academies Trust, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Warwickshire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Ann Pritchard
Her Majesty's Inspector