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Miss S Thomas  
Headteacher  
Meadowside Primary School  
Elmore Lane East  
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Dear Miss Thomas

### **Short inspection of Meadowside Primary School**

Following my visit to the school on 8 December 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. The visit was the first short inspection carried out since the school was judged to be good in May 2011.

#### **This school continues to be good.**

The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection.

- You and your deputy head have high aspirations and are passionate for all pupils to be successful. Together, you lead a team who share your determination to provide your pupils with the very best education.
- Leaders at every level work effectively. As a team, you continue to build on the strengths of the school. You have successfully tackled those areas identified at the previous inspection as needing improvement.
- Teachers ensure that pupils have a good understanding of what they need to do to improve their work. Pupils value the feedback teachers provide, they appreciate the time given for them to reflect and respond, recognising the positive impact it makes on their learning and progress.
- Leaders have developed a curriculum that enthuses, inspires and motivates pupils to want to learn, providing them with the knowledge and skills they need for the next stage in their education.

- Pupils feel safe and secure. They talk positively about the care and guidance they are given. As a result, they enjoy coming to school; this is reflected in their good attendance.

### **Safeguarding is effective.**

You, your staff and governors are committed to keeping pupils safe. A robust culture of safeguarding is embedded throughout the school. Systems are rigorously implemented and systematically monitored by leaders and governors. You ensure that high-quality training is undertaken by staff and governors so that they are up to date on current guidance and well informed on all types of risk to children.

Pupils are confident that they can share any worries they may have with an adult. They describe how their school is a safe and happy place, where they are well cared for.

Leaders and governors ensure that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose and records are detailed and of good quality.

### **Inspection findings**

- Staff, pupils and parents are full of praise for how you and your deputy head lead the school since starting in post in September 2014. You resolutely maintain your drive and ambition that every pupil should have the opportunity to achieve their best. The strengths identified at the previous inspection remain.
- During the last academic year, you and your senior leaders recognised that the most-able pupils in Year 6 were not doing as well as they could. You quickly tackled this area of concern. Consequently, the proportion of pupils achieving the higher levels in reading, writing and mathematics significantly increased in 2015 and was well above the national average.
- Disadvantaged pupils are making good progress in their learning. This is particularly evident in writing viewed during the inspection. Teachers have the same high expectations of all pupils.
- The quality of work seen was good. However, the presentation of pupils' work is not always as good as it could be as your own leaders have already identified.
- Children in the early years continue to do well. The proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to rise and remains above national averages. This ensures that children are well prepared as they start in Year 1.
- You are aware of the dip in the outcomes of the phonics screening in 2015 after the significant rise in the previous year. You are swiftly tackling this dip to

ensure that it does not happen again. Activities are now planned more effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

- Your self-evaluation is accurate. It clearly identifies the areas in which the school needs to improve. In particular, you and your governors recognise that the progress of pupils in Key Stage 1 needs to be stronger. Published data for 2015 and evidence found during this visit demonstrate that you are taking effective action to rapidly bring about improvements for these pupils.
- Leadership of teaching is strong. You rightly consider the training and development of staff as crucial to the continuing success of the school. You provide high-quality training and opportunities for the sharing of good practice. You are outward-looking and welcome the partnership within the local cluster of schools to improve practice and secure good progress for pupils. You appreciate the challenge and support from the local authority. For example, you welcome the attendance of the school adviser to some of your senior leadership meetings and staff development days. This exemplifies your partnership working and desire to provide the best for staff and pupils.
- You have a strong and committed team. Together they strive to ensure that all pupils do as well as they can. Pupils talk about 'inspirational teachers who motivate us with our learning'. Some Year 6 pupils commented on how teachers are always 'upbeat' and 'give us the feeling that they enjoy what they do'.
- Governance is highly effective. Governors clearly understand the strengths and weaknesses of the school. By gathering first-hand evidence, through regular visits to school and attending meetings on pupils' progress, governors are in a good position to challenge leaders and hold them to account.
- Pupils talk enthusiastically about their learning and welcome the opportunity they have to contribute to the design of the curriculum. Consequently, they are excited and enjoy their learning. They talk with enthusiasm about the many varied learning opportunities they receive. They like the challenge set at the launch of each new topic, which they say inspires them to seek out and learn new facts. For example, one question set for pupils was 'What makes Britain great?' Pupils were highly motivated with their learning to answer this question, covering many subjects, such as science, history and geography.
- Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They appreciate the hard work and dedication you and your team provide for their children. Typical comments from parents are 'this school is amazing' and 'this school is exceptional'. Parents speak highly of the school's commitment to provide the best education for their children. They speak of how their children are challenged with their learning. Parents also welcome the guidance they are given to support their children in their learning at home, for example, the workshops that the school provides.

### **Next steps for the school**

Leaders and governors should ensure that:

- effective leadership of teaching remains a priority in order that more pupils make outstanding progress, particularly pupils in Key Stage 1
- the presentation of pupils' work is improved, especially in their writing.

Yours sincerely

Jen Southall

**Her Majesty's Inspector**

### **Information about the inspection**

I met with you, subject leaders, governors and an officer from the local authority to discuss pupils' progress and the improvements the school has made since the last inspection. With you and your deputy, I visited lessons to observe teaching and to look at pupils' work. I spoke with parents at the start of the day and looked at the survey results from 'Parent View'. I also spoke to pupils during playtime and lunchtime. I evaluated the accuracy of your self-evaluation along with other documentation. I checked the effectiveness of your safeguarding arrangements and your work to ensure the regular attendance of your pupils.