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13 January 2021

Rohan Allen
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Dear Mr Allen

Ofsted visit to Rebecca Cheetham Nursery and Children's Centre

Following my visit with Adam Vincent, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 9 December 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, the senior leadership team and the designated safeguarding lead. 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:

- No groups of children have had to learn at home since the start of term.
- All children are learning the same subjects as they usually would.
- Leaders' main priority has been to make sure that children make the transition between home and school successfully. This is because many children had limited chances to mix with other children and adults during the period of partial school closure.
- Staff have checked pupils' starting points in all areas of the early years foundation stage curriculum. They have found that some children have lower levels of language than expected. Staff are using activities based around picture books to help develop children's language.
- Staff have also found that children's levels in mathematical development are lower than in other years. They have planned activities to give children chances to develop their counting and understanding of number.
- Staff have created videos with ideas of learning activities for families, in the case of any future school closure. They also have bags of resources ready, so that families can take them home to support their children's learning.

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 regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Newham. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Bryony Freeman
Her Majesty's Inspector