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11 December 2013

Mrs J Alison  
Headteacher  
School Lane  
Irchester  
Wellingborough  
NN29 7AZ

Dear Mrs Alison

### **Primary Science good practice**

Thank you for your hospitality and the hard work of your pupils and staff that helped make my visit to your school very enjoyable. I was impressed by the quality and range of science enquiry that was taking place, and the coordinated approach led by Mrs Tyrell. Pupils clearly enjoy science, and were keen to explain their experiments. The availability of a specialist scientist to lead teaching in the well-resourced bespoke science laboratory is enabling pupils to extend their learning well beyond the minimum expected from the science national curriculum.

My visit was all too brief, but has alerted me to some exceptional primary science practice. I would like to return in the New Year to gather evidence for a good practice case study that we may then publish on our website for the benefit of other schools. I will telephone you after the Christmas break to agree a date, and suggest the kinds of evidence I will be seeking. The most useful evidence would be showing how your approach to science is having an impact across the curriculum, and in particular on any specific examples of improving English and mathematics through science. There should also be some evidence of how pupils' personal development has improved as they take ownership for investigations, therefore developing their independence and resilience to set-backs. Finally, your secondary school partners might be able to report on the qualities your pupils show, compared with others, as a result of this science programme.

Yours sincerely

Brian Cartwright  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**  
National Lead, Science