



# Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation



## Carlisle Infant School

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Headteacher: Ms Z Brittain BA (Hons)

Deputy Head: Mr D Wells BA (Hons)

## Hampton Hill Junior School

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Headteacher: Mr A Went B.Ed (Hons)

Deputy Head: Mrs A Appleyard BAQTS

May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are well and enjoying the sunshine – such a positive time of year in our schools, with trips, transition and leaving events to follow as the term progresses.

The full governing body met on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, and covered three main areas:

### Ofsted

We had a presentation from Marie Newman our "School Improvement Partner" about how Ofsted inspections work under the relatively new framework – both the technical detail and also the practicalities of how the inspections work out for the schools, parents, pupils and also governors.

Whilst we don't have any insider knowledge that an inspection is coming at either school, the call could now come at any time – Carlisle was rated "good" back in 2018, and most pertinently, Hampton Hill was last rated as "outstanding" but all the way back in 2010.

Both schools were inspected under the old, very different Ofsted framework – the new inspections, which ALL schools have to adjust to, contain a widely held understanding that very few schools will achieve an outstanding judgement this time round. (<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/downgraded-outstanding-schools-may-have-actually-improved-says-ofsted-director/>).

As we have been told, schools that do shift ratings are not being downgraded, they are simply being judged against completely different criteria. As a federation, we have a clear plan to meet all the changes required by this new framework but some things take time to be fully embedded, especially within the context of the last two years and the effect of Covid. You all know, as parents, what we do and what we achieve for our children, but governors are aware that an outstanding judgement under this new framework remains a significant challenge.

### Budgets and financial support

There will be more to follow in detail from both of the schools, but sadly the effect of Covid has depleted any lingering reserves that we had across the federation, and budgets, to put it mildly are very, very tight in 2022. The Governors have therefore agreed that we will need to ask parents if they feel able to support our schools financially – but with no obligation to do so – to enable us to continue with enriched curriculums over and above the very basic provision of education. This is NOT a decision taken lightly, but one born of necessity and despite huge amounts of effort by the federation's business manager and the governors to economise and seek value for money and additional income wherever possible.

### Governor Succession

For a variety of different reasons we have several Governors leaving us at the end of this academic year, and I myself will step down (*with enormous regret!*) in September after 5 years due to the increased time pressures of my day job in the city. We are actively recruiting new and enthusiastic governors from a variety of sources to ensure the ongoing vitality of the board. If you know of anyone in our wider community who might be able to bring the skills that we need to our federation we would be delighted to hear from them.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term when it comes.

**Billy Day**

**Chair of the Governing Body**

