

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

This school year is absolutely flying by! It's been very busy in school (when isn't it?) and governors have been busy too.

This is just a quick update for you on some key matters. Firstly, thanks to all those who fed in to the business case that was submitted to Achieving for Children (AfC) for our two schools to be located on one site. We believe that the case for this to happen is strong and parents and staff are very much on board with the plan, and it would be so positive for the federation. Unfortunately, the response came back from AfC that they appreciated our efforts and that there is a case for the relocation, there is also no money available. DfE money is only available for a rebuild when a local authority is creating extra capacity, and with primary pupil numbers a challenge both locally and nationally, they will not be investing in a rebuild unless the school's condition is so bad that the school is at risk of closure. Therefore, the money would need to come from the local authority, and they simply do not have the budget at the moment. They have not dismissed our case entirely and should financial circumstances change then it would be considered, but I think we all know that this is unlikely any time soon. It's disappointing of course, but not entirely surprising.

In more positive news we are delighted that we have recently recruited some really super new governors. Emma Waight has been elected as the new parent governor and Roisin Sullivan was elected as the new staff governor. We have further new governors joining us and once all paperwork is sorted and they have attended their first meeting, we will introduce them to you. Thank you so very much to all the people that were interested and offered their services as a governor, it was so encouraging, and whilst we couldn't bring everyone on board at this time, there will be future opportunities so please do come back next time.

Alka Soni has decided to step away from school governance as work circumstances made it more difficult, so we thank her for all her work over the last couple of years. So with our new governors, we will have a full board again.

As always, thank you for all your support for our lovely schools, it is very much appreciated. We wish you all the very best for a lovely break over Easter and hope you are able to enjoy the lovely spring weather.

Deb & B

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation