



16th March 2016

Dear Parents,

After a term as Chair, it feels like a good time to provide an update. Each term Governors meet once as a Full Governing Body and then either the Resources or Strategy committee meets. Our remit centres around three areas:

Budget: The amount we receive from the Local Authority is directly related to the number of pupils we have. We are reviewing the budget and are confident we will have the resources needed to support the primary curriculum with similar facilities to equivalent sized state primaries. Governors do not have a remit to fundraise but it would be fantastic for parents who would like more resources to re-establish a Friends/ PTA. We also appreciate philanthropic donations of time, resources or money.

Staffing: We have recruited a new Head and look forward to welcoming Mr Moloney after Easter. A new Key Stage 2 teacher is being recruited.

Following a skills audit, we are in the process of recruiting two new community governors to fill vacancies.

Some brilliant volunteers have helped in the kitchen this term as well as running other activities.

Vision/ Strategic Direction: Hipsburn is in great position to become a primary and we are looking forward to it. We have started to prepare for 2016/17 reflecting on feedback from parents, staff and our own insight from visits and reports. Once Mr Moloney has had a chance to settle in he will be able to provide more information.

We are a smaller than average primary and parents frequently cite they enjoy the benefits that this brings in terms of approachability, openness, closeness and integration. Conversely this means we do not have a budget for many additional resources or single year classes (few state primary schools have the latter).

Hipsburn offers:

- Quality teaching and learning
- A nurturing ethos



- Approachable staff
- Wonderful outdoor spaces
- Expert tutors – dance, art, environment, sports, music and languages
- Extra-curricular activities and clubs
- Visits (and a residential trip for year 5 is proposed)
- Community events (Xmas Fair, Football festival, Arts Festival, WW1 celebrations etc)
- A healthy environment
- Nutritionally balanced, freshly prepared meals

Some advantages in becoming two tier are:

- Retaining close contact with teaching staff and in-depth knowledge of your child.
- Greater continuity, accountability and less transition phases to raise pupil confidence and performance.
- More opportunity to improve independence, health and environmental footprint by walking to school rather than catching a bus.
- Increased maturity by older children helping to supervise younger children and gaining responsibilities and specific privileges.
- From year 7, pupils will have access to full secondary resources

For Years 5 and 6 Hipsburn will aim to ensure:

- Each child continues to be given the relevant opportunities and skills to fulfil their potential and prepare them for the challenges ahead. Each child is aware of the responsibilities and expectations we have for them.
- Transition is seamless from year 6 to secondary school.
- Parents and staff work together to provide the best environment for the children.
- The curriculum is varied, interesting and challenging.
- The children are given the learning tools to progress.
- Children in Year 5 and 6 have discreet privileges and opportunities

We look forward to welcoming the increasing families who are choosing Hipsburn Primary. Thank you for your support.

Governors can be contacted via hipsburn.governors@northumberland.gov.uk, where emails will be checked once per week.

Kind regards,

Amelia Hunter

Chair of Governors

