

Friday 31 March 2017



Dear Parents,

## **CIPPENHAM SCHOOLS' TRUST DEVELOPMENTS**

As you are aware Cippenham Infant School and Cippenham Primary School form the Cippenham Schools' Trust. The Trust, through a Board of Trustees, is directly accountable to the Secretary of State for Education for the performance of both schools within the Trust.

The Trustees have been carrying out a detailed review the work of the Trust, specifically how the Board of Trustees carries out its role for the strategic leadership of the Trust.

While both schools operate in highly effective ways, the review considered how staff might now work even more closely together for the benefit of all pupils. The review considered a variety of options and unanimously decided that the appointment of an Executive Principal would enable the schools to retain their own identity while providing strategic leadership for the Trust. The holder of this post will have responsibility for the development of both schools, ensuring delivery of the Trust vision for the schools and be directly accountable to the Trust.

The Government has appointed Regional Schools Commissioners who have responsibility for the performance of schools in their area. The Commissioners have made clear in recent guidance that they expect Multi Academy Trusts, like the Cippenham Schools' Trust, to appoint an Executive Leader. Our decision to appoint an Executive Principal is in line with this guidance.

I must make clear that Trustees have been keen to maintain the independence and unique ethos of both schools in the Trust. The Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors of both schools have been fully involved in this process and are fully behind the proposed way forward. Both Governing Bodies are also supportive.

Trustees, Chairs of Governors and the senior staff of both schools believe that Nicky Willis, currently Head Teacher of the Primary School is extremely well qualified and the ideal person to undertake this new role. Mrs Willis will therefore become Executive Principal of the Cippenham Schools' Trust with effect from 1st September 2017.

Clare Lambourne and Stephanie Holding will remain co Head Teachers of Cippenham Infant school. A Head teacher will be appointed from the internal team at Cippenham Primary School.

Mrs Willis will keep you informed of further staffing implications and developments next term.

The Trustees are convinced that this is a positive way forward for both schools and will enable the Trust to ensure that your child continues to receive an excellent education and that both Cippenham Infant School and Cippenham Primary School continue to flourish and develop.

Yours sincerely,

Sonny Sidhu  
**Chair of Trustees**  
Cippenham Schools Trust