



## Joint Governor and Headteacher Annual report to Parents and Community

Dear Parents and Carers

As the nights draw in, the calendar year to a close and the children at Carrington Junior School begin to prepare for the exciting and magical Christmas holiday season, it seems a good opportunity to reflect on the recent journey and progress of the school over the past year and update you all.

This time last year Governors were delighted to announce that Mrs Majcher had accepted our invitation to become Carrington Junior's permanent Headteacher, after nine months as our interim Headteacher. With Mrs Majcher's arrival in January 2017, she inherited a school which had experienced a disturbed period of leadership with 6 different Headteachers over 2 years and this turbulence meant that educational standards had slipped and were not as good as they should have been.

Now that the leadership is stable with Mrs Majcher in post, the school and pupil outcomes have improved in every way.

You will have noticed that the school has had all the corridor and classroom displays, which support learning refreshed, new reading books in class and in the library, an updated curriculum, extended sporting opportunities, the financial deficit incurred during the turbulent period has been paid off, the school beginning to be repainted ..... and so much more that is positive and helpful for your children. We have received very positive feedback from parents and carers.

Many new and experienced teachers along with supporting teaching assistants have joined the school working alongside Mrs Majcher and now, with Mrs Cameron as our new Deputy, who joined us earlier this term, for the first time in 3 years, we have a complete team of leadership and teaching staff in place.

As most of you know OFSTED visited the school last June. When OFSTED arrive at any school, they look at a school and the last year's published data on pupil outcomes at a available at a particular point in time. In June we were not able to report the huge improvements and progress made by your children which were shown by the evidence available at the end of the school year last July. Given this, it was inevitable that the school was graded 'Requires Improvement' (RI), simply as a reflection of the stage of the journey the school is on towards 'Good'.

Governors and staff, and I believe some parents, felt that the OFSTED report issued in July 2018 did not accurately reflect the impact of the changes and rapid progress the children made in the school over the last 18 months. As a result OFSTED was challenged and asked to review the evidence given at the inspection and the report has now been modified so it more clearly acknowledges recent improvements and the capacity the school and Governors have now put in place to deliver sustained improvements to ensure an excellent education for your children.

The Governors and staff are confident that the school is rapidly transforming into an excellent school where children are happy, believe in their capabilities, learn well and fulfil their potential. We are also delighted that parents told OFSTED:

"Some real positive changes have taken place with the absolute focus on providing excellent education".

"I am very happy with the leadership at the school and the dedication of all staff. The commitment really shows and as a parent, I feel the staff have a genuine interest in the children".

Being graded as 'Requires Improvement' surprisingly has some specific advantages, as it enables the school to draw on additional resources. Even before OFSTED arrived we had negotiated additional support for the school to help it improve quickly and our RI judgement means this support will continue. One of these is the participation in a successful new 'Side by Side' initiative which the Local Authority is putting in place to ensure schools support each other and share good practice.

Crucially the transformation which has happened in the school is in large measure because of the support and encouragement you as parents and carers have given to your children and continue to give through your support to the school in so many ways. This makes such an enormously positive difference to the children. We can't thank you enough for this.

Many of you will also be aware that we held parent Governor elections recently and we now have two new parent Governors:- Sally Mule and Joanna Bristow. They will be known to many of you as parents who have helped the school through the PTA but they also bring specialist skills in marketing, publicity and coaching to the Governing Board. In addition we have co-opted 2 other parents as Governors, Ben Norris, who is an Accountant and has a wide business background and Israil Bryan who has a background in Human Resources with a specialism in equality and diversity. Over the summer we have co-opted another Governor, Neil Bourhill who has an IT, engineering and finance background.

These new Governors along with the existing ones bring a breadth of skills and perspectives with a huge commitment to the children in the school to help us all work together with the staff and you the parents to make the school an outstanding place for your children.

We know that giving your children a firm foundation in reading, writing and maths is the basis on which they can develop their skills, interests, love of learning and self-belief with personal health to succeed in their future lives. This is the right and essential goal for every child, whatever their talents and starting points to ensure their future is fulfilling at primary, secondary and continuing education into adult life. This also means that children have time and space to pursue their wider interests through the curriculum in science, sports, music, literature, dance, art music to ensure they are well-rounded individuals as they progress through life. Our philosophy is that we all are passionate to provide this for every child who comes to Carrington Junior School.

Our future newsletters and reports will give you more information on our progress. We are excited to have you working with us on this transformational journey.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to you all and best wishes for the forthcoming festive season.

Yours sincerely

Anna Majcher



Headteacher

Anne Sheddick



Chair of Governors