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7th May 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Last year, we were delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Lisa Harper as Interim Executive Head Teacher of both Phoenix Infant and Nursery School and Priory Junior School and during that period discussions were held between the Governing Bodies about how both schools move forward. As you are aware Mrs Harper has made the decision to return to her substantive post at Phoenix at the end of the academic year after spending the year working hard on school improvement and staff stability. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the work she has undertaken building a stronger relationship between both schools.

In January we held a meeting with representatives from both Governing Bodies and it was decided that we would formally explore joining an Academy. With an increase in the number of schools academising and all schools across Nottinghamshire facing the resulting pressures of a declining birth rate, we feel joining an academy will:

- greater protect the long-term stability of both schools;
- help to enhance the quality of education;
- improve partnership working;
- offer staff a wider program of CPD and career opportunities;
- provide our schools with a wide range of services and support from an Academy Trust central office.

After interacting with several Academy Trusts, White Hills Park Academy Trust are our chosen Academy Trust as they allow schools to retain their own identity, ethos and local decision-making abilities while offering a broad range of support and services from the Trusts central office.

We strongly believe that these steps will be of huge benefit to both Phoenix Infant and Nursery School and Priory Junior School, providing stability and improved education for all. We will keep you informed with how things progress over the next few months and representatives from Whitehills are coming into both schools to deliver a presentation to help answer any questions you may have. They will visit Phoenix on the 10th of June at 4pm and then visit Priory on the same day at 5.30pm. Parents can go to either meeting at the time that is most suitable. We hope that these meetings will be useful.

Yours sincerely,

Sonya Hand
Chair of Phoenix Infant and Nursery School
Governing Body

Sam Smith
Chairman of Priory Junior School
Governing Body