



18th April, 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the Governing Body, I am delighted to inform you that following an intensive two-day interview process, we have appointed Mr Michael Catchpool to be Milton Road's Headteacher from September.

Our consultations with the Milton Road staff team and School Council, together with responses to our on-line parent survey in January helped shape our thinking on what to look for in a new Headteacher and depict this in the application pack, so thank you again to all who contributed to this. We set out to find an outstanding, visionary leader, who loves working with children, can recognise and build on the school's strengths, is leading in pedagogy, nurturing of staff and will inspire the children, staff and parents alike. This Headteacher would need to focus on the immediate priorities for post-Ofsted improvement, whilst paving the way strategically and collaboratively for the school's longer-term development as a thriving, self improving school. In Mr Michael Catchpool we believe we have found such a Headteacher.

Michael's philosophy of education is that learning should "*engage and excite all children, so that they can develop a genuine passion for life-long learning*". He has 24 years' experience in Primary education: as a class teacher in both KS1 and KS2; School Improvement Adviser for Hertfordshire County Council and with two Headships; the first at Sefton Park Junior School in Bristol and most recently Morley Memorial Primary School here in Cambridge. Michael is currently a Senior Lecturer in Education at the University of Northampton, has a Masters in Education from Cambridge, focusing on the use of drama as a teaching and learning strategy and has just completed a PhD, also from Cambridge University, focused on children's narrative writing and the impact and effectiveness of peer feedback. In his free time, he writes children's books and has recently taken up the trumpet, which the children may mention, following Thursday's whole school assembly, given as part of the interview process. This was one of a range of activities in which Michael engaged with children, staff and other members of the school community.

Mr Michael Catchpool will take up his appointment in September 2016. Until then the school will continue to be led by our Interim Headteacher, Ms Susan Dobbs. We will be making arrangements to facilitate a smooth transition and look forward to welcoming Mr Catchpool to his role in the new academic year.

With best wishes

Sylvie Baird
Chair of Governors