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**Houghton Conquest  
Lower School**

Growing together

**Headteacher**  
Miss C A McCarthy

Value of the Month: Happiness

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you and your family are well and are managing during this difficult time. It is wonderful to see how children have settled to the new routines at school and are thoroughly enjoying being back.

With the summer term coming to a close and the new academic year fast approaching us, I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss the future plans for Houghton Conquest Lower School with regards to the organisation of its leadership team.

I know you will all join me in agreeing that Miss Heaslip has done a fantastic job of leading our school during the past 12 months. Therefore, we are delighted to tell you that from September, Miss Heaslip will be continuing in her leadership role at the forefront of our school, in a new role as Co-Headteacher, alongside a teaching commitment.

We are also very pleased to be able to tell you that Miss McCarthy will soon be able to return to school from her long-term absence. During the last few weeks, she has been working remotely with myself and the Senior Leadership Team to become familiar with the current school climate. From September, Miss McCarthy has welcomed the opportunity to share the role of Headteacher with Miss Heaslip.

This Co-Headship arrangement is part of a structured succession plan, offering our school the opportunity of a smooth transition as Miss McCarthy commences a phased retirement and allows us to support Miss Heaslip in her aspirations as a Headteacher.

I understand that many of you will not have heard of a Co-Headship arrangement before but it is a tried and tested model. Governors feel that this arrangement will be a great opportunity for our school to utilise the complementary skills of both Headteachers and to enable both to shape the long-term success of the school.

Over the coming months Miss Heaslip and Miss McCarthy will be working with all the governors and staff at HCLS, to ensure that the transition to the new Co-Headship arrangement is smooth and successful from the word go.



As ever Governors welcome your thoughts and comments, and are pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

You may contact me directly at [chairofgovernors@hcschool.org.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@hcschool.org.uk) or via Ms Harvey, at [hconquest@hcschool.org.uk](mailto:hconquest@hcschool.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Burton', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr S Burton  
**Chair of Governors**