



**Hellifield Community Primary School**  
Kendal Road, Hellifield, North Yorkshire, BD23 4HA  
e-mail: [hadmin@ribblesdalefed.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:hadmin@ribblesdalefed.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
website: <https://ribblesdalefed.n-yorks.sch.uk/>  
Tel. 01729 850215

**Interim Executive Headteacher:** Mrs Catherine Maddocks

*A member of The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools – Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the festive season, spending precious time with your family and friends. It is lovely to have the children back in school, well rested and excited about the busy term ahead!

Today is my first day in school as the new Interim Executive Interim Head teacher of the “Ribblesdale Federation of School.” I am delighted to have such a wonderful opportunity to lead the Federation, working collaboratively with such a talented and hard-working team. Since my appointment, I have enjoyed visiting all three schools, informally meeting with the children and staff, everyone has been so kind and welcoming. The children are delightful, so happy and full of enthusiasm, they are a credit to you all. I’m excited to get to know them all and learn more about them. Mrs Garrett-Ward has provided me with lots of invaluable information about the Federation and the three schools, including their individual contexts and distinctive personalities. This has been invaluable in preparing for my new role.

I have been a Head teacher since 2003, successfully leading three different schools, in Rochdale, Lancashire and Bury Local Authorities. I am confident I have the necessary experience and skills to lead the Federation and take it forward on its next stage of improvement, for the next 2 terms. I have high expectations for all your children, and I look forward to working with the children, staff, Governing Board and of course, parents and families over the coming months, to ensure the very best educational outcomes for all the children within the Federation. I am aware of the current School Improvement Plan priorities and the next steps identified in the most recent school inspections and will work with everyone to continue to address these over the coming months.

From my experience, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to your children’s achievements, and I am excited to build on the relationship between you and the school.

This week the new nursery at Long Preston has opened its doors! This is such an exciting opportunity for both the community of Long Preston and the Federation of schools, who will all have access to this new provision, for younger siblings. If you are interested in sending your child to the nursery, please contact Mrs Sarah Middleton (Federation Business Manager) to arrange an appointment with Miss Mounsey. I appreciate that the opening of the nursery has meant some changes to staffing arrangements and I would like to thank you for your support and co-operation with this. I am confident that the transition arrangements implemented at the end of the autumn term, will successfully ensure the children are not affected and they will quickly settle with their new teacher. If you have any initial worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Mounsey, the EYFS leader or the class teacher directly. They will update me accordingly and if necessary, I will discuss this with you directly. I am attaching my whereabouts for the spring 1 half term. I have used the format you are all familiar with. I would also like to draw your attention to the following key events that have been planned for the coming half

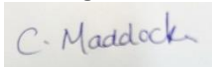
**\*The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools** comprises:  
Giggleswick and Hellifield Community and Long Preston Endowed (VA) Primary Schools.

term. These dates were already scheduled in the school calendar. If we decide to do anymore, I will let you know as soon as possible.

I will do my best to be available on the school gate in the mornings or evenings, so please do say hello and introduce yourselves. I will work hard on remembering names! Parents, carers and families are all very welcome to join us at the weekly celebration assemblies, which will recommence on Friday 13th January 2023. I will lead assemblies across the Federation, attending different schools each half term. Both Miss Mounsey and Miss Houghton will also be responsible for leading celebration assemblies, especially at Long Preston, where they will now both be based. Other senior staff may also need to support the leading of assemblies as necessary. This is a wonderful opportunity to reward and encourage all the children for their hard work, good conduct and for following the school vision, "Do everything in love," and promoting the associated school values of, love, kindness, friendship and respect.

I look to meeting you all soon.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Maddocks".

Mrs C L Maddocks