



**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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10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to inform you know that the report from our recent Section 8 Inspection on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 is now available for you to read. A copy of the report is attached for your information. Alternatively, hard copies are also available from the school office. The report will also be published on the Ofsted website (<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>) and will be uploaded onto the Federation website.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the hard-working, talented and dedicated staff team at Hellifield. I know they will continue to work collaboratively with me, to address the improvement areas that have been identified. Due to this hard work, inspectors noted that:

- Hellifield Community Primary School is a kind and caring community.
- All staff emphasise the values of love, kindness, friendship and respect.
- Everyone is made to feel very welcome.
- Pupils feel safe and are safe.
- Pupils behave well at all times. They participate actively in lessons and are keen to learn.
- Staff are consistent in their expectations of pupils. Pupils meet those expectations.
- Pupils learn to read quickly and fluently, and leaders help pupils to develop a love of reading.
- Teachers are skilled at developing pupils' knowledge of phonics.
- Leaders have ensured that staff at Hellifield Community School are knowledgeable about how to teach mathematics and early reading well.
- Pupils also develop secure knowledge and skills in mathematics.
- The teaching of mathematics is effective.
- Pupils study a broad range of subjects
- Pupils have a range of opportunities to take on responsibility in school. They help pupils to become confident and responsible.
- Leaders emphasise the importance of respect. Pupils learn about a range of different cultures and backgrounds.
- Leaders have ensured Hellifield is a positive place to work.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe and are proactive in doing so.

We are all very proud of our wonderful children and the positive comments in the report, that refer to them. Well done! I'm sure, as parents you are also proud of their achievements and successes.

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

The inspection was a one-day (Section 8) inspection. The inspection outcome indicated that there has been no change to the school's overall judgement of good. However, the evidence gathered during the inspection suggested that the inspection grade might not be as high if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. Inspectors are therefore recommending that the next inspection be a graded inspection. The process was extremely positive and useful in terms of looking at school improvement and it was useful to note that the improvements they have suggested were already included in the Federation School Improvement Plan.

An important aspect of the 2019 Inspection Framework is a deeper focus on the wider curriculum, looking at subjects beyond English and Mathematics. Recently, the Federation has been creating new curriculum opportunities with a focus on the sequencing of each subject to ensure children build on previous learning whilst acquiring new, memorable knowledge. This is well documented in our School Improvement Plan, which I have recently updated. We recognise that this is a developing area.

#### Areas for Improvement

- In some subjects, leaders are not clear enough about what pupils need to know and be able to do. This means that some teaching does not build upon pupils' prior knowledge. As a result, some pupils do not develop detailed knowledge and skills in all subjects. Leaders should ensure that teachers build pupils' knowledge and skills over time in all subjects.
- In some subjects, teachers do not check regularly to see what pupils have learned and remembered. This means that gaps in pupils' knowledge are not identified or addressed as quickly as they could be. Therefore, pupils who need extra support, including those with SEND, do not always get it. Leaders should ensure that teachers make effective use of assessment to identify specific gaps and misconceptions so that these can be addressed.
- Leaders and teachers do not have a detailed awareness of some of the risks that pupils might face in their specific context. This means that pupils do not get as much information as they could about how to manage these risks. Leaders should ensure that all staff are aware of the contextualised risks that pupils might face and how they can equip pupils with the knowledge to manage these risks.

Thank you to every member of the school community, including the Federation Governing Board, who are working tirelessly to make Hellifield a wonderful place for children to learn. Also, thank you to parents and carers for your welcome support. We will continue to build on our successes, whilst maintaining our vision and values, striving to provide the very best educational experience for all the children in our care.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking the team for all they do in school and beyond the school day.

Kind regards



Mrs Catherine Maddocks

Interim Executive Headteacher

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