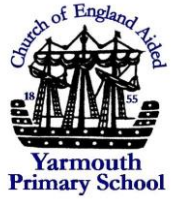


The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Achieving together for a brighter Future



Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth:
Mrs Elizabeth Grainger B.Ed English (Hons)



18 July 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Almost the end of term again and our schools have had a wonderful and busy year, where the governors have had the pleasure to work with Mrs Grainger and her team to provide the best education, opportunities and premises for our children. The team has had to deal with some significant challenges over the year and the governors would like to thank you for your continued support of their efforts and trust that we will all continue to work with them to provide a nurturing, inclusive and safe learning environment in which your children can thrive and grow.

Our Development Day this year will be in September, when staff and governors meet to review the outcomes for children and look at our Federation Development Plan anew. We will therefore report on this in the autumn term. Whilst we have embedded our assessment systems, it remains a challenging part of our work as the government have published revised expected standards for the last three years.

We are however committed to having an exciting and relevant curriculum that engages the children with their learning and prepares them well for life beyond our schools. It is our curriculum combined with knowing each child, understanding what they can achieve and encouraging them to do so which supports good outcomes for each child year on year. Take a look on the website under the class pages for some pictures of the fantastic learning the children do throughout the year. It is the learning culture in our schools that is at the centre of how the children are asked to approach their work and give them a passion for life-long learning. Our curriculum information can be found on our website under 'School Information/Curriculum - EYFS, KS1, KS2.

We hope you have all taken the opportunity to meet up with your child's class teacher(s) to gain an understanding of how your child is progressing, how assessments works and how you can support your child. It is this true collaboration between school and home that will bring about the best outcomes for the children.

We are again expecting a busy start to the Autumn term, with both schools welcoming many new families and children. The Federation remains a popular choice with parents and links are strong with our preschools, Little Explorers and Little Stars, helping to make transition into school as easy as possible.

This year much effort has gone into our premises development. In Yarmouth, following the arrival of the new Y5/6 classroom and the remodelling of Early Years and Year 1/2, we have completed a refurbishment of the other rooms in the school as well as some ancillary works less visible. We hope to add some finishing touches over the holidays so watch this space for when you return in September. Thank you once again for all your support with the voluntary funds required to finish this transformational project.

At Shalfleet it is all too evident already what is to happen in the next few months. At our consultation events you will have seen the exciting plans for the redevelopment and refurbishment of the school. Thank you to all parents for bearing with us during the last two weeks of this term. We are hopeful that upon return in September most work will be completed and children can settle into their refreshed classes. Every effort will be made for this to happen. Meanwhile this year we have finally received our road crossing and reached agreement on the space for additional parking. We hope this makes a significant difference for you all.

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We are delighted to advise that we now have new clergy in our midst at both the Shalfleet Benefice and St James in Yarmouth. Rev Clive Todd is joining us at Shalfleet and Rev Leisa McGovern at Yarmouth. We are working with them to make regular visits to our schools supporting our faith community. Please join us in welcoming them to our schools.

Whilst the positions were vacant, we received fantastic support from Richard Wharton, Diocesan Schools Advisor, Peter Sutton the Archdeacon, Rev. Ali Kerr and various lay members of our church communities. We are very grateful for all they have done and continue to welcome them to be part of our schools as we move forward with our new vicars for pastoral and spiritual guidance.

The significant issues around school funding remain. There has been no increase in our funding and now we have the new funding formula we know this has not resulted in more money for our schools; both schools have seen a small drop in funding per pupil. Dealing with cost increases as well as needing to buy into services which previously were free, mean that we continuously have to make choices on what can and can't be provided whilst always focusing on the best for the children. The team think carefully about those events and trips that are offered to ensure they offer rich learning opportunities as part of the curriculum we offer and are value for money. We would like to thank you for your continued support with trips and other activities where we ask for contributions. Without your assistance we would not be able to give the children these experiences.

Last year we wrote to you about the feasibility study on the potential establishment of an Island Multi Academy Trust with the Anglican and Catholic Diocese. Due to the change in government policy away from academisation of all schools, this project is no longer pursued. We have though recently been invited by the Diocese to a meeting of Church of England and Catholic schools on the Island to look at what opportunities for collaboration may exist. The governing body will attend this meeting and will keep you informed of any significant developments.

We hope you find this letter informative and useful, however should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or Katie Riley, our new Clerk to the Governing Body. We wish you all a wonderful Summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours faithfully



Carla Bradshaw
Mark Webber
Co-Chairs of Governors
The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth