

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)



16 October 2020

Dear parents and carers

We have already arrived at the end of the first half term back in school. When we last wrote to you in July we were unsure whether we would be back or what the 'new normal' would look like. Thankfully education is a priority and we are delighted to have all children back in school. We hope your children have settled back well into the routine of school. We particularly welcome all our new children and families who have recently joined us. We are very happy you have chosen our schools for your family.

As you would expect we continue to monitor our daily processes and risk assessments to ensure we stay in line with government guidelines. We are pleased to report that recent site inspections by our Health and Safety Advisor were positive and affirmed that we are operating safe schools within government guidance. Any significant changes to current practice and procedure will be communicated to you by the schools' leadership teams in a timely manner.

We reported at the end of term that our normal cycle of governor visits to the school had been disrupted. We have transitioned to virtual attendance for most meetings to stay in touch with our leaders and review progress of the Federation Development Plan. We make occasional visits to the schools when it is suitable to do so and in a risk assessed way to ensure we can continue to support Mrs Grainger and her team in the most appropriate way. The Governing Body continue with a 'portfolio style' of governance. Below is the list of Portfolios holders and committees as recently agreed:

- Attendance - Laura Homes
- Community & Marketing - Neil Gartell, Revd. Leisa Potter, Debbie Munn
- EYFS (including pre-schools) - Laura Homes and Tina Griffiths
- Finance - Debs Downer, Caroline Weeks and Stephen Holland
- Premises, Health and Safety: Carla Bradshaw
- Headteacher's Performance Management - Tina Griffiths, Debs Downer and Stephen Holland
- Inclusion - Caroline Weeks
- Modern Foreign Language - Tina Griffiths
- Pay Committee - Debs Downer, Carla Bradshaw and Steve Holland
- PE - Neil Gartell
- Premises/Health and Safety - Carla Bradshaw
- Religious Education/SIAMS - Tina Griffiths, Revd. Leisa Potter and Sylvia Smith
- Safeguarding - Caroline Weeks
- Standards - Steve Holland & Tina Griffiths
- Staffing and Policies - Debs Downer and Steve Holland

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Federation Development Plan focus for this academic year remains as it was last year:

Magnificent Maths Mastery: Focus on Maths; for all children to be back on track in terms of attainment in Maths and make accelerated progress throughout the academic year.

Reading the Write Way: Focus on Reading & Writing; for all children to be back on track in terms of attainment in Reading & Writing and make accelerated progress throughout the academic year.

Leading Lights/Leading a Federation Curriculum: Focus on the implementation of our well-developed curriculum plans with on-going monitoring and evaluation of the impact.

Future Progress for All Focus on ensuring that all children make progress from their starting points and that all children have a chance to succeed.

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The Federation Development Plan supports our mission as a Federation of Church Schools; the intent is to provide a curriculum which inspires children to learn and prepare them for the next steps in their education and life beyond school gates.

As part of the implementation of the curriculum, we have looked at what the children need to learn and what they want to learn about. Much thought was given to the impact of the last six months and making appropriate adjustments to support the full time return to school. One such adjustment is Outdoor Learning with a focus on Forest Schools. Whilst in the past we have offered this for lower year groups, this year we are pleased to be offering it to all year groups. We will continue with our 'Inspire Days' where learning is done differently and will engage the children with choosing the Pupil Led topic and our Teacher Inspired topic. Although at the moment we cannot be very adventurous with trips, different opportunities will be created for the children to expand their horizons. For example, by working across the Federation more thereby giving the children opportunities to collaborate in different ways such as working in groups virtually, Mrs Smith is looking forward to leading the Junior Leadership Team and the Learning Leaders this way.

In our Federation, and this year even more so, the curriculum pays particular attention to Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) as well as the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of each child. We have planned in time for the Emotional Literacy Support Assistants to support children as and when needed. Much has happened that is unusual this past year and we want to ensure children have the opportunity to process their experiences and move forward stronger.

Over and above the Federation Development Plan and the work on the Federation Curriculum to develop its intent, support its implementation and monitor its impact, the governing body have been looking at the 'community' aspect of our Federation. Governors recognise the significance of the work with our stakeholders; pupils, parents/carers, staff, the wider community, the Diocese and the Local Authority, to the success of the Federation. We discussed how our mission statement drives our interaction with our community and to provide clarity for everyone, we have agreed a 'Community Plan'. The aim of the plan is to ensure our engagements are meaningful and beneficial for everyone. The Community Plan is available on our website under our new community page.

As a Governing Body we are currently awaiting the outcome of the parent governor elections and will update you as soon as the process has concluded. We look forward to being joined by a new parent on our board to give voice to your views. We are delighted that Laura Homes has been appointed by the Diocese as a Foundation Governor and thus remains part of the Board. Our 'Instrument of Government' indicating the categories of governors we can have by law and the governors' Business Interests and attendance can be viewed on our website under the 'Federation/Governors' tab. Governors meet (virtually currently) twice per term to ensure we can review and discuss the work that has been undertaken, raise any questions or concerns and review the strategic direction of the Federation. These regular meetings also help to ensure our statutory duties are correctly discharged.

Whilst this year looks to be anything but usual, we will continue to work determinedly with Mrs Grainger and her team to provide a stimulating and engaging environment where the children are excited about their learning and are supported to reach their potential; both academically and emotionally.

And finally, the Governors would like to thank all the teams in our Federation for their continued hard work in providing excellent care and education to all the children. We would also like to thank the parents/carers for their support of the Federation and last but certainly not least the children for being so amazing in these strange times.

We trust this letter is informative and useful to you however should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school offices or Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Governing Body (clerk@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk).

Yours faithfully

Carla Bradshaw
Chair of Governors