



The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Achieving Together for a Brighter Future

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)

A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School



14 October 2021

Dear parents and carers

At the end of the first half term, I write to you with an update on behalf of the governing body. In July we were hopeful that the children could return to class with a more 'normal' programme. Thankfully this has been the case and the children have bounced back with as much resilience as we could have hoped for, fully engaged with their learning. We also want to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to children and parents/carers who have recently joined us. We are very happy you have chosen our schools for your family.

Like you we are conscious that Covid-19 has not disappeared over the summer break. Safety measures are in place in line with government guidance. Our Health and Safety Advisor continues to support our premises management and an enhanced cleaning programme remains in place. Research in Education has firmly established that school is the best place for children to learn, thrive and build their future. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Covid safety or school attendance, please contact the school office.

The Federation Development Plan has been fully reviewed and governors have agreed with school leaders to retain the focus areas from last year with some adjustments. The targets around English and Maths remain for children to get back on track in terms of their attainment and make accelerated progress. We have added a section on mental and physical health and 'Progress for All' aims to do just that, ensure progress from whichever point your child may be starting, supporting them to achieve the best they can.

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: To further embed our Curriculum Vision and our Learning Principles. To continuously evaluate our well-developed curriculum plans for impact and improvement of the children's curriculum experience.

Future Progress for All: For all children to be back on track in terms of attainment in all areas and make accelerated progress throughout the academic year.

Active Bodies, Active Minds – Enriching Cultural Capital: For children to have the opportunity to engage with the community, have wider cultural experiences and think about their future success. To support and promote children's mental and physical health and well-being.

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In light of Covid, the curriculum has been adapted to provide the knowledge and experiences children need to progress from their varying starting points and prepare them for their next stage in education. Forest School remains an important aspect in achieving this aim, helping children progress by (re)building relationships and resilience but also to inspire curiosity, a love of learning and the outdoors. Both the curriculum and the Federation Development Plan pay particular attention to Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) as well as the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of each child.

Our curriculum is further enriched by a number of activities: 'Inspire Talks' will start again and we are delighted to confirm that Rev. Jackie Maw, our West Wight Rector, will be the first person to engage the children in person this year with her tale. 'Inspire Days' continue where learning is done differently, such as the brilliant USA Day this week where teams of children built native American settlements and a Tepee using minimal provided resources. Children will get the opportunity to vote for the Pupil Led topic as well as engage with a Teacher Inspired topic. School trips are back on the agenda although we will build these up carefully in a Covid safe manner. The class teachers will keep you informed of the plans for your child's class. The Junior Leadership Team and Learning Leaders have been selected again and will support the development of the schools. We hope to get the opportunity to meet with them in person at some of our governing body meetings throughout the year and catch up on progress.

As governors we were delighted to meet again in person for our first meeting in September. It had been about 18 months since we had last done so. The virtual platform has served us well but we all agreed there is nothing like meeting face to face, refreshing our strong relationships and looking forward together to set the direction for the Federation. Having said that our meetings going forward will be a blend of face to face and virtual to make best use of everyone's time and availability.

The Governing Body maintains 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 - Laura Homes
- 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
- Religious Education/SIAMS - Tina Griffiths, Revd. Leisa Potter and Sylvia Smith

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- Safeguarding – Caroline Weeks
- Standards - Steve Holland & Tina Griffiths
- Staffing and Policies – Debs Downer and Steve Holland

Governors monitor school performance through the portfolios listed and governors meet with leaders to focus on the individual aspects of the Federation Development Plan and track progress. A fundamental aspect of monitoring this year will include reviewing the impact of our curriculum, to ensure it is fit for purpose at all times providing the children with what they need to achieve their best.

Last year the governors introduced the Community Plan recognising the importance of all stakeholders in the success of our Federation. Even though it has been a challenging year, much has been achieved to progress the plan. An updated plan can be found on the website: www.fosay.co.uk.

The next 18-24 months is a time of transition for the Federation where our community plays a central role. All children from the Freshwater site have now joined their friends on the Yarmouth site and in the not too distant future, Yarmouth CofE Primary School will be relocating to Freshwater. We recognise our school communities have undergone significant change in the past five or so years and this coming year we will seek to engage with all stakeholders to review our Mission Statement, Vision and Values. Look out for consultation surveys and events in the newsletters.

We are pleased that following the recent nomination process, the governing body will be strengthened with two new parent governors: Paula Newton and Allan Bridges. Both will introduce themselves to you soon. 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 look forward to continue to work with Mrs Grainger and her team to provide the best possible education for the children supporting them to reach their potential both academically and emotionally.

We would like to thank parents/carers for choosing our schools for your family and for your support for the Federation. And last but certainly not least we thank the children for being so amazing in these strange times, reminding us of a brighter future every day.

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

Yours faithfully

Carla Bradshaw
Chair of Governors

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