

The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Achieving together for a brighter Future



**Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth:
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22 July 2021

Dear parents and carers

This time last year we wrote that we were at the end of an extraordinary school year. Never did we imagine that this would be followed by an even more extraordinary year. The challenges this year have been many and different for each and every one of us. In schools, the remote learning, the isolating, the bubbles and the impact on well-being to name a few of the main challenges. Pleasingly, across the Federation, Respect for each other's situation and the Determination to do the best for each child consistently has made our Relationships stronger than ever. Collectively, as a community, we have moved forward in the best way possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the schools, for working with your children and the teachers to keep the children's education moving forward even in these unprecedented times. Your support is invaluable; it is well known that good collaboration between school and home will bring about the best outcomes for the children.

We don't want to miss out the children and so thank them for their determination this year to continue their individual learning journey. You have all done brilliantly. To our Year 6 children, we send our best wishes as they go on to secondary school for the next phase of their education. Remember our doors are always open, you are most welcome to come and see us and maybe in a few years you will be the star in one of Mrs Grainger's 'Where are they now?' videos.

As we reported in October last year, the Federation Development Plan remained focused on similar priorities as in 2019-20. Governors have continued to link to each of the four strands to monitor progress and meet with leaders termly. Once again this has been done virtually this year to ensure we kept everyone safe. Our priorities were:

- Magnificent Maths Mastery – Phase 2
- Reading the Write Way
- Leading Lights/Leading a Federated Curriculum
- Future Progress for All

Although we are not able to report on formal outcomes for the children, we are pleased with the work completed this year. Whilst we have had to make adaptations because of Covid, enormous progress has been made on our curriculum, making sure that there is clarity on what the children will have learnt by the time they leave our schools in Year 6 in every aspect of their learning and evidencing the impact. Full details of the curriculum offer can be found on our website: <https://www.fosay.co.uk/curriculum/>

With the implementation of this curriculum programme, our curriculum leaders have also built a bespoke assessment system to accurately check children's progress, not only in their current year group, but in their journey through the school. This effectively creates a bespoke learning plan for each child. Whilst the system is in operation currently we are looking forward to seeing its full impact as we return in the autumn term to hopefully more usual ways of working.

Once again, almost overnight, in January this time, the shift was made from learning in school to a virtual learning environment. We standardised the virtual school day, made teaching resources available on-line daily, provided recorded lessons as well as live check-in sessions whilst keeping in-school teaching vibrant. It all became part of the normal routine. The return to school in March was managed carefully by the leadership team with support from our Health and Safety consultant.

Mrs Grainger and her team worked hard to ensure that the return back to school was positive for all children. Adjustments were made to the curriculum to ensure children could settle back into the routine of school and move on from remote learning as easily and quickly as possible. Additional time was given to 'PSHE' or

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Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Education, a statutory subject for schools to teach, to help rebuild relationships and friendships as well as address any worries or fears the children may have had upon return to school. They have all done brilliantly, settling in very quickly, making sure the schools have become the happy, safe places we know them to be.

One aspect we have managed in a different way than envisaged is the work across the Federation. The hope had been to bring the children together at a number of events throughout the year to support the building of our federation community. Keeping bubbles secure made that impossible. However, our Collective Worship beamed across the Federation courtesy of modern technology for example, has meant that children have been able to share experiences on a virtual platform. Nothing was more enjoyable than to hear children across the Federation celebrating each other's achievements and expressing concern and encouragement for one another. Examples of this include a child from one school asking a child in another school how they had got on with their poorly arm which had been reported the previous week, or an impromptu performance in one school being applauded whole heartedly by the children in the other. If we ever needed any, these examples are a real testament to the children's engagement with and commitment to our school community.

Rev Leisa Potter made weekly Zoom visits to the schools with Monday Morning Collective Worship. These have been wonderful and welcome moments of reflection that emphasise what it means to be part of Church Schools and which is at the heart of our mission. Never the less, we look forward to the autumn term when we fully plan to hold Collective Worship in person again giving us the opportunity to consciously be together and celebrate our community, in particular at Yarmouth where the children will be on one site.

We are delighted to report that following the departure of one of the area clergy last year, the Diocese have appointed Rev Jackie Maw as Team Rector for the West Wight, working closely with our Rev Leisa Potter. Rev Jackie has already led many church services including a wonderful service walking from Newtown Church to the creek on a beautiful day with poetry, singing and prayers. We would highly recommend you register with Barbara the West Wight Mission Community Team Administrator by emailing her on: bbmskparishes@gmail.com. You will then receive a monthly update on all Church Services in the West Wight.

Last autumn we launched our new website. Whilst websites by their very nature remain a work in progress, we are pleased with the new look and feel and hope you find it easy and straight forward to navigate as well as a great resource for general and class information which can be accessed at any time. Please do have a look at www.fosay.co.uk. We want to specially thank Mrs Munn for all her work on this.

Our leadership structure will remain in place as we have today with Mrs Grainger and Mrs Westhorpe as leaders working across the Federation, supported by Mr Cook at Yarmouth and Mr Roberts as Shalfleet. Mrs Smith who has been our leader at the Freshwater site has decided to return to the classroom whilst remaining a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We thank her for her valuable, positive contribution and dedication to welcoming the children and families on the Freshwater site into our Federation family.

Whilst we all recognise that "Covid-19" has not gone away and that guidance may change over the summer holidays, we sincerely hope that will be able to return to school as we remember it. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting start with many new children joining both the schools and our wonderful preschools, Little Explorers and Little Stars.

Lastly, we would like to add a huge thank you to Mrs Grainger and all our federation staff team who have once again risen to the challenge this year to provide excellent education for the children in a safe and inclusive learning environment where children can thrive and grow. We are excited about working with them next year when we hope to be able to visit the schools in person again. Meanwhile, we wish you all a restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours faithfully



Carla Bradshaw
Chair of Governors