



Shalfleet Church of England Primary School

Together for a Brighter Future

20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you will know, Shalfleet CE Primary School has historically been used as a polling station for local elections. As a local authority school, we are legally required to accommodate this when requested.

As our school community has grown, it has become increasingly difficult to host polling safely while keeping the site secure for our children. Over the past year, we have been working closely with the local authority to explore alternative venues. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, no suitable alternative has been found for this year.

We have now received formal notice from the Returning Officer at County Hall that the school is required to be used as a polling station for the local elections on **Thursday 7th May**. This request has been made under the **Representation of the People Act 1983**, which gives Returning Officers the power to designate publicly funded buildings for polling purposes.

As a result, the Local Authority has mandated the closure of Shalfleet CE Primary School and Preschool on 7th May 2026 to allow the site to be used as a Polling Station, as it is not possible to operate safely as a school while the polling station is in use.

Because this falls in the week before SATs, we will be providing on-site education for our Year 6 pupils at **Freshwater & Yarmouth CE Primary School**, where they will be taught by **Mr Roberts and Mrs Cuff** for the day.

We understand that this closure may cause inconvenience, and we are very sorry for the disruption. However, the safety and wellbeing of our children must always come first. Please be assured that the local authority continues to explore alternative venues for future elections so that closures can be avoided wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Grainger

Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)
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A member school of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth whose purpose is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives.



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