



The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth

Together for a Brighter Future

23rd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write to you as the Governing Body and share some of the latest developments across our school community. We are continually encouraged by the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children, and the strong partnership we enjoy with our families.

We are delighted to celebrate the newly expanded Little Stars Preschool, which sits alongside our established Little Explorers provision. Both settings are superbly led by Sadie Gooding and Lucy Millar, whose leadership continues to strengthen early years education across our schools. With Little Explorers receiving a superb recent Ofsted report.

Children from these teams—and indeed from all year groups—have been enjoying a rich variety of experiences within our local community and beyond. Recent visits, including trips to Harry Potter World and Butser Farm, have offered valuable opportunities for learning outside the classroom. These mainland visits form an important part of our commitment to ensuring every child can access a broad range of experiences beyond the Isle of Wight.

We are also pleased to share that we are now a 'My Happy Mind' school. This programme supports children's wellbeing and helps us nurture a culture of positive mental health across our community. Alongside this, we are embarking on the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey, which will transform our lunchtime provision and create enriched, imaginative play opportunities for all pupils.

Our strong links with the local community and our parish churches remain central to our identity as Church of England schools. Many of you joined us for the joyful Pancake Day races in the square, and it was wonderful to see such enthusiastic participation from the children.

While we await the appointment of a new incumbent to replace Rev. Leisa—who served as both an active governor and a valued worship leader—we are grateful for the support of clergy and volunteers from our local churches. We extend our thanks to Sister Charlotte, Ruth Witchard, Mike Shackleton, and the dedicated *Open the Book* team for continuing to enrich our worship life. We are also pleased to welcome a new governor, Sheila Best, a nurse and member of All Saints' Church, Freshwater, who brings valuable experience and insight to our board.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to serve our schools community, and we look forward to the year ahead with hope and optimism.

With warmest wishes,

The Governing Body

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The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth
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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