

17th February 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Executive Headteacher Update

As you now know following my recent letter, Ms Evans is leaving us at the end of this term. I am pleased to be able to inform you that governors have appointed her interim replacement, Miss Mills, to take on the role of our Executive Headteacher from the start of the summer term. Miss Mills will be joining us on secondment from her current school, The Howard in nearby Elford.

Miss Mills is an experienced leader of a small, rural school and therefore has the ideal knowledge, skills and attributes to extend across our federation. Over the next half term, she will be spending time in both schools, working with Ms Evans and the staff to ensure a smooth transition. Miss Mills is very excited to get to know the children and yourselves so there will be opportunities to meet her and have a chat at the gate before / after school. We will let you know when these are.

She wanted to send you all the following message –

'I am delighted to be joining the Mease Federation after Easter as your Executive Leader. I am extremely passionate about leading small rural schools and believe in providing excellent primary experiences for all children. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to build on the good work of Ms Evans and to continue the journey to provide the very best education and experiences across the Mease.'

I am sure you will join us in ensuring Miss Mills receives a warm welcome at the Mease Federation in due course.

Academisation Update

This change in leadership doesn't affect the next stage in our journey that I referred to in my last letter, which is making progress towards academisation. We are pleased to share that the Diocese have confirmed we are able to further explore joining an existing Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and that the MAT we are looking at is The Staffordshire Schools MAT (St. Mary's C.E. Primary School, The Richard Crosse C.E. Primary School, Anson Primary School, The Howard Primary School). However, there is much more due diligence and consultation to occur and this will most likely last many months.

Please feel free to visit their website – www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk to find more out about their ethos and values. I have attached a form which is part of the early consultation process with parents, and while there will be ample opportunity to learn more about our proposed MAT and ask questions as we go forward, please feedback any initial thoughts and queries, so we are able as governors respond in a timely manner.

You will notice that Miss Mills current school, The Howard, is already part of The Staffordshire Schools MAT, but it's important for us to explain that our secondment of Miss Mills is separate from this ongoing process and that we will remain as local authority maintained schools for sometime yet. We already benefit from collaboration with other schools and will continue to do this with our priority being enabling our new Executive Headteacher and current staff to further build on the progress and strengths achieved over recent years.

Kind regards

Stephen Webb
Chair of Governors