



The Meadows
Primary School

THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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8th June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to share with you an update from our Governing Body.

As for many school communities, we have been contemplating its position with regard to academisation and forming a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Our responsibility to our children, parents and our community is of the highest priority, and we are extremely proud of our ethos, values and vision as a school. To this end we are keen to ensure that we retain our own identity as a school. However with the rapidly diminishing role of the Local Authority, reducing finances and a very clear message from both the LA and the DfE that they are fully supporting schools to become Academies, we need to look elsewhere for support and collaboration. This will ensure our children and staff receive high quality teaching and learning opportunities.

As a result Governors have been exploring options with the Shaw Education Trust (SET) (<http://www.shaw-education.org.uk/>) with a view to The Meadows becoming part of their Multi Academy Trust. The ethos of SET strongly aligns with those of our school - it's a charitable trust and has children at the heart of everything it does. As you may be aware Madeley High School has recently joined their trust which provides an exciting opportunity for The Meadows to develop links and improve the transition from primary to secondary school. Furthermore the SET are now working with a number of primary schools with a view to academisation. As part of our own due diligence we have spoken to other schools already in their MAT and the consistent message is that they are already enjoying and benefitting from improved resources and learning opportunities for children, high quality support, networking, and training and development opportunities for staff without it impacting in any way on their own school's identity. There is most definitely a meeting of minds and we are confident that it is very much a Trust that 'does with' and not 'to.'

As a consequence the governors invited SET to conduct due diligence on the school and this has now been successfully completed. An Academy Order has been applied for from the Department for Education, however this next step in the process has been delayed due to the General Election and the associated state of "purdah". Once the Academy Order has been granted we will be in the position to begin the formal consultation process. The views of all stakeholders will actively be sought. We will invite you to attend a meeting where you can find out more about the Shaw Education Trust and how The Meadows will become involved from their CEO, Jo Morgan. In the meantime if you have any questions, please do get in touch using the following dedicated email address: academyconversion@meadowsprimary.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Procter
Headteacher

Miss A Spilsbury
Chair of governors