



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware we recently consulted on federating with Ipplepen School. Prior to the half term break, the governors of both the Federation and Ipplepen School met to consider the consultation responses and I'm pleased to tell you that they voted overwhelmingly to federate. The federation of the schools will take place on the 20th of June. During the interim period we are holding parent and staff governor elections.

Kingsteignton School

www.kingsteignton.school.org

Kingsteignton School is opening in the grounds of St Michael's School in September 2016. This is a large single classroom that has been installed in the Orchard. The children, who in September will be of Reception age, will become part of St Michael's School for one year. In September 2017 these children will then move to their new school building at the Newcross site. The new classroom will remain on site at St Michael's and provide much needed additional space.

Staffing changes

There are going to be a number of leadership changes this year.

In September, Dr Penny Fitch is leaving St Mary's to become the Principal of Kingsteignton School. Kingsteignton School will continue to work in partnership with the Federation and as a consequence we are very fortunate that we will be able to retain Penny's considerable expertise. I'm pleased to say that Ms Claire Wilkinson will become the new Head of School at St Mary's.

The current Headteacher of Ipplepen School is leaving at the end of the academic year to run her own business. Mrs Amanda Lacey, from St Michael's, has been appointed as the new Head of School.

The Federation have recently agreed to work with Doddiscombeleigh School. The school will work in partnership with the Federation for one year initially. During this time, Mr Jon Arnold, who is currently at St Catherine's School, will be on secondment to Doddiscombeleigh School as the Head of School.

These opportunities help develop our staff and because these schools are working in partnership with the Federation, we are able to keep their substantial expertise within our partnership for the benefit of all our children. A number of new staffing appointments have also been made during the last half term. Details about these will be published in school newsletters before the end of term.

Online School Pupil Tracker

Following the very significant changes in the primary curriculum last year and the removal of levels, we were unable to use the assessment tracking system. In the questionnaires we sent out to some of our parents access to the online tracking system was clearly something they wished to see return. This year we introduced a new assessment system and this has allowed us once again to give you online access to your children's attendance and attainment data. Currently we are unable to provide progress data due to the change in curriculum but will review this again in September after the assessment system has been running for a year.

Parent Pay

<https://www.parentpay.com>

We are pleased to say that we will soon be able to accept payments online for school dinners,

educational visits and residential trips. Parent Pay offers you the freedom to make these payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

You will soon receive a letter with more detail and instructions enabling you to create an account via your email address. If you have more than one child at our school you will be able to merge their accounts, giving you future access using a single set of login details.

HEADSMART

At St Michael's, two children from the same family were diagnosed with two different types of brain tumour. One of the children, who was diagnosed some time ago, has, following treatment, made a very good recovery. The other, who has only very recently been diagnosed following an eye test, is undergoing treatment at the Bristol Children's Hospital. Our thoughts are with this family and we hope that both children get better quickly and return to full health.

Brain tumours are rare, but they do happen and as such we felt that it important that we raise awareness of this condition. Over the coming weeks we will be sending out an information card to help make you aware about the possible signs and symptoms. We also plan to fund raise for the HEADSMART charity this term. If you would like more information in the meantime please visit www.headsmart.org.uk

IRIS system

<http://www.irisconnect.co.uk>

We have purchased a new system that will be used across the federation to help continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The system, which will be set up by the teacher, will video a lesson and then upload the information to a secure server. Only the teacher and our school staff will have access to the data. This system will allow teachers to view and reflect upon their own teaching and use this information to improve the quality of learning they support. This is a mobile system and will only be used when the teacher sets it up for a particular lesson. It is not a CCTV type system, will not remain in the classroom, and will not be monitoring lessons at any other time. We spend a lot of time coaching and supporting staff to make their teaching more effective, but feel that this will allow staff to become more self-reflective. If you have any questions about this please contact your Head of School who will be able to help.

Thank you for your continued support in helping ensure that all of the children across our schools are happy, enjoy school and make good progress.

Kind regards.

Martin Harding
Executive Headteacher