



*"...Let us remember that, as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school."*

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A note of thanks and an update which I hope finds you keeping well and managing to adapt these challenging times.

I would like to express words of gratitude to all parents and carers who have dealt with the significant changes in our lives over the past few months. The changes that have been forced upon us in all walks of life, have demanded us to adapt and work in different ways, which has not always been easy. We can only thank you for doing your best to ensure your children have been cared for in the best way you can.

We hope that normality returns for the start of the 2020 academic year, but until then, we will need to continue with our changed working patterns and way of living and adapt to this new normal.

An area that we have been looking at developing over recent months, is the opportunity for St. Paul's to work closely with another local school. Appropriate schools for St. Paul's are those we feel would benefit from the expertise of the Senior Leadership at St. Paul's, without disrupting the excellent provision we are offering our pupils. This means the school needs to be of similar size, and therefore faces similar operational issues, is geographically local, so is easily visited without travel time becoming a disruption and one that would benefit from the expertise of the team at St. Paul's. One of the more significant benefits of this, other than those mentioned above, is that it provides a level of security for St. Paul's going forward, not just financially but also in terms of Academies or groups of schools who may wish to absorb St. Paul's into a greater body of schools.

The school that has become available, is West Kingsdown CEP. The Headteacher is leaving at the end of this academic year and we have agreed that Mr Hulme will provide the Executive Headteacher role. In addition to remaining Headteacher at St. Paul's, this is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Hulme and the St. Paul's team, to share their expertise and for St. Paul's to benefit from the strengths at West Kingsdown; this reflects the excellent work that has been achieved at the school since January 2017.

The relationship will, in the short term, be from September to December 2020, when it will be reviewed by both schools. If it is considered that both schools are benefitting from the relationship, there is every likelihood the relationship will continue under a more formal arrangement.

In the coming weeks, we will arrange a Q&A on Zoom, so that your questions can be addressed. It is important that you can voice your questions and for us to provide you with the answers. Mr Hulme will be in touch nearer the time with details.

That's it for the moment, other than to say once again, thank you for your continued support of the school!

We wish Mr Hulme the very best in this new role and look forward to new partnerships between both schools, developing over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

**David Strachan**  
Chair of Governors