



Headteacher
Mr. Dale Bateman

Coopersale and Theydon Garnon C. of E. V.C Primary School

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Monday 22nd June 2020

School Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well in these challenging times.

On behalf of the Governors, I am writing to advise you of a temporary change to the School's staffing arrangements from the start of new academic year 2020/2021.

Coopersale have been approached by Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School in Fyfield, Ongar at the suggestion of Essex Education and Chelmsford Diocese asking for our assistance. Dr Walker's existing Headteacher leaves them at the end of August 2020 and their Governing Body has been unable to appoint a full-time replacement owing to the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Essex Education and Chelmsford Diocese, in discussions with Dr Walker's, recommended that the solution to their challenge was to appoint an interim Headteacher for the Autumn 2020 term and, given in their view of the strength of our senior leadership team, suggested that Dr Walker's approach Coopersale to fill this temporary post.

After careful consideration, the Governing Body of Coopersale agreed at our recent Full Governing Body meeting to the following arrangements:

1. For the Autumn 2020 term, Mr Bateman will become an Executive Headteacher meaning that he will take on the temporary role of Interim Head of Dr Walker's in addition to his normal role of Headteacher of our School. Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Atwal, will take on the role of Headteacher (full title of, Associate Headteacher) at Coopersale when Mr Bateman is at Dr Walker's. We have spoken with Mr Bateman and Mrs Atwal to ensure that each are prepared to take on the additional responsibilities without impacting their own work/life balances.
2. Mr Bateman will be on site at Coopersale every day but will also need to spend time each week at Dr Walker's. When Mr Bateman is at Dr Walker's, Mrs Atwal will perform the role of Headteacher ensuring Coopersale always has a dedicated Headteacher.

In view of the current disruption to our children's education caused by Covid-19, we understand if some of you may have questions to governors about Mr Bateman spending time away from our School; rest assured this was considered and that this was not a decision that we, as Governors, took lightly.

However, as a Christian school it was felt the right thing to do in the circumstances, particularly as our School has a senior management team with the capacity to handle the situation without impacting the provision of education or the safe and nurturing environment that the School provides. It is also worth noting that those costs associated with the enhanced interim posts are being paid by Dr Walker's and will not affect our School budget.

Whilst we are confident that these temporary arrangements will be a success for both our School and Dr Walker's, if any parent/carer has any questions please contact:

admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk using the subject line "Executive Headship". The Governor's plan to collate any questions received and respond to parents via a Q&A fact sheet.

Your sincerely

George Dunseath

Chair of Governors