



## Brightlingsea Junior School

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Headteacher Mrs. C.E. Claydon

14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

In my letter of 7<sup>th</sup> March, regarding Mrs Claydon's departure at the end of July, I promised to write again in order to keep you informed.

The Headteacher post will be advertised through the Essex Jobscene publication and website, commencing this week. It will also be promoted through the Times Education Supplement website and we will be holding interviews during the last week of April. It is vital that we find the right strong leader to take our school forward, so if you have any friends or family who might be suitable candidates, or who know of potential candidates, please let them know. We are in a rapidly changing educational world, with a national focus on close partnerships and academisation. Whatever the future might hold for our school in terms of structures, one priority remains constant and absolute and that is the best interests of our children. So, we need a new Headteacher with the skills and commitment to keep putting our children first and if you can spread the word, then so much the better.

As to future school structures, you will know, there has been rapid national change in recent years and the pace is accelerating. We, as with all schools, have been developing partnerships with similar local schools for the benefit of all the children. We face significant challenges in maintaining and improving the overall standard of education that we provide. For example, there will not be lots of new money to help us increase the range of services we provide and the building we provide them in, or even maintain them at current levels. Every school needs to look at finances and what can be achieved through joint working. Nationally, Academy Trusts and Multi-Academy Trusts are increasingly used as structures to achieve the best viable outcomes. Our newly appointed Head will need to play a leading role in our new partnership.

The governors are currently exploring how we can best secure the future of our school, both in terms of the need for ongoing improvement and the financial and organisation structures that would enable that to happen. So of course governors will be liaising with colleagues at Brightlingsea Infant School and the Colne Community School & College. We are duty bound to also consider how any partnership might now or in the future include other local schools. The legal responsibility and duty to reach a final decision on the best structure rests with the Governing Body. We are moving ahead without delay and will be having formal meetings with colleagues over the next few weeks. We are very conscious indeed that we need to get this right, for our existing children and also for children to come. So the governors need to get on with the task and I will report back to you again on progress.

Yours faithfully

Alan Johnstone  
Chair of Governors

