

Information for Parents and Carers 22nd June 2018

We have a date!

We are now in the position to be able to inform parents and carers of the outcomes of many meetings and negotiations that have been taking place over the last month.

We are delighted to announce the Academy for Character and Excellence will be taking over the leadership of Totnes St John's from 26th July 2018, initially under a Management Partnership, with academy conversion planned for the autumn term. We are starting on this date, as we want to work with the staff on their non pupil days to plan for the autumn term. We are really excited at the prospect of being formally responsible for the school and continuing the great work that has already begun with First Federation.

We would like to thank Miss Slater and the First Federation team for their helpfulness and support during this time of transition for the school. In particular, they have provided us with lots of detail about the individual needs of the children, which has been hugely helpful.

We fully appreciate the difficulties around communication for parents and carers and understand your need to be informed of some important decisions for the new academic year. Next week a final meeting will be held between the Local Authority and members of the Local Governing Body. After this meeting we will be able to inform you of your child's class. We are trying hard to ensure that we have all the information we need to organise classes so that all children at St John's have their needs met and receive a great education. A letter will be sent to parents next week with these details. We very much appreciate your patience and understand your desire to have this information soon!

Your new Head of School!



Mr Jim Funnell is currently an Assistant Head at Ellacombe Primary. Many of you have already met him at the Parents' Meeting that was held with our Academy for Character and Excellence team. He is really looking forward to spending a number of days in the school over the forthcoming weeks. Mr Funnell will be working closely with the Leadership team and staff in school to prepare for the new academic year. He will also be in school on the Family/Community day on the 20th July so do come along and meet him!

We have some new staff

On Wednesday of this week two new staffing appointments were made. Teachers from St John's were involved in this interview process with us and are thrilled to have two strong and experienced teachers joining the team.

Mrs Sarah Guest is a very experienced teacher who has recently moved into the area from another county and has been a Middle Leader, Maths Lead and Year 1 teacher in her previous post. Mrs Guest will be covering Mrs Bassett's maternity leave.

Mrs Sarah Mathys is now well known to Totnes St John's and has proven herself to be a real asset to the school, having worked in KS1 throughout the year. Mrs Mathys will be working with Mrs Wright in a job share post.

We are delighted to welcome both teachers to the school and know that they, like all class teachers, are really looking forward to meeting their new classes in the forthcoming weeks and beginning a new phase of school improvement at Totnes St John's in September.

Come and join the new Ethos Committee

All our Trust schools seek to provide excellent education, pastoral care and spiritual development for all the children and adults who make up our communities. Totnes St John's is very fortunate to have a very diverse and rich community where uniqueness, difference and individuality are valued highly. The Trust really embraces this distinctiveness and so we are keen to develop an Ethos Committee whose priority will be to develop the school's uniqueness and distinctiveness as a Church school. If you would like to join this Committee please mention this to the office or Mr Funnell who will be able to give you further information.

Over the next five weeks...

Members of the Academy for Character and Excellence team will be in school working with the First Federation team to ensure that the plans for the transition to the new Leadership team in the school are going smoothly. A member of the trust's senior leadership team, along with Mr. Funnell, will be in every week until the end of term. We have already been able to meet all the staff, our new Reception parents and the wider school community including Rector Julian Ould.

Meetings have been taking place with the Interim board of governors and the Local Authority. We will be joining the teaching staff at their professional development meetings over the rest of the term and coming down each week to join in both on a formal and informal basis. Our priority for now is to know the children, the staff and of course yourselves. Until that time when we do meet, if you have any questions, please direct them to the school office who will forward them on to us.

Finally...

Thank you for your understanding and positive response so far. We really do understand how difficult it has been for all at St John's. We are totally committed to doing our best for the children and are tremendously excited and eager to start making our plans now and prepare for the new year and a new start in September!

