

Saint Paul's Journey

Meeting with parents – 21 October 2018

This was the second meeting with parents of the new school year; Miss Woods and Miss Donna M were also present.

Headteacher

Dr Maggie Brady's last day was 31 August, and the School will be saying thank you and farewell to her just after Half Term.

Miss Imogen Woods is now formally the Interim Executive Headteacher, and we are changing the names on notice boards, etc.

Organising the School

The internal organisation of the school was explained – besides the Senior Leadership Team (the SLT) of the Head and two Deputy Heads, other teachers take roles as Middle Leaders – each responsible for a different subject area.

Conversion to Academy

The way forward is now clear. By law the school MUST now be converted to an Academy – that is independent of the Local Education Authority, the London Borough of Southwark. Academies need a sponsor; a sponsor usually sponsors several schools and is usually known as a "Multi-Academy Trust" (MAT). It is now certain that we will be moving to the care of the Church of England's Southwark Diocesan MAT. This is good news – we are very much a Church School, and the MAT will ensure that we maintain our ethos and values. There is a good deal of administrative stuff to deal with – land ownership, finance, employment contracts, etc, but we are keen to get this done as efficiently and quickly as possible to ensure a seamless transition.

Homework and reading

The structure is now clear across the school – 10 minutes reading every day, homework out on Friday and back on Wednesday - and parents welcomed this. It is good to see parents'/carers' comments in the home reading record books. As for homework, parents asked if homework could be set in such a way as to show what exactly was being taught and worked on – it wasn't always clear from the set tasks and parents need to have a good view of the curriculum.

Teaching and learning

Parents asked about challenge – are more able children being challenged and stretched sufficiently? This is "differentiation" - adapting teaching to each pupil's individual level. We strive to do this well; what we do know is that research shows that children are always best educated with their own age group rather than, say, being moved up a year.

Peter Chadwick
Chair, Governing Body