



Swaffham Prior C of E VC Primary School
Station Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LG
www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk



4th June 2020

From the Chair of Governors
chair@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the current school closure, staff, governors and DEMAT have continued their efforts to develop the provision and improve outcomes for pupils. I would like to thank staff for their tireless energy in working closely with parents to support the home learning at this challenging time.

The current headteacher at Swaffham Bulbeck has resigned and will be leaving the school at the end of the academic year. This has provided an opportunity to review how Swaffham Prior & Swaffham Bulbeck further build on how they work together to deliver the best education for the children of each school.

DEMAT have therefore offered Mrs Bartley, an Executive Headteacher position, whereby she would be responsible for both Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck schools. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved promotion.

This will provide an opportunity for each school to have the best of both worlds, being a small school, each with their own identity and school community and all that comes from their small size, but with many of the advantages of a larger school.

- A lot of Policy, Strategic Planning and Administrative work can be done once, reducing administrative overhead.
- Both schools are better able to attract and retain quality senior leadership
- A larger staff community, providing more internal support for teachers
- Subject leadership and curriculum development can be shared across a larger staff.
- Ability to allocate more financially to frontline teaching.

Mrs Bartley and Mr Buddle (Current HT at Swaffham Bulbeck), and their staff have built up a close working relationship since they both joined our communities, and this will very much build upon the work is already taking place.

Mrs Bartley's promotion will make no difference to the school's status. It will continue to be an independent school, with its own identity and community and subject to its own independent inspection cycle by both Ofsted and SIAMs. DEMAT and the Local Governing Body's will be making mechanical changes to the current governance arrangements to ensure that some of the administrative overhead benefits mentioned above will be maintained.

I have no doubt you will have a number of questions, and I have therefore included a FAQ document with this letter.

Mrs Bartley and I will also be holding a Parent Forum via Zoom on Friday 12th at 1pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82278335349?pwd=ODFEL3ZzQVRJZEVPeC84ZjhzeEhNQOT09>

& 7pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87007480479?pwd=SVdxdUdlZlRtRFlyRnZEaWJJdkhGdz09> .

Alternatively, as always I can be contacted by either via email on chair@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk, or via the school office, if you have any questions or concerns you would rather take up privately.

Yours faithfully

C Goodfellow

Chris Goodfellow
Chair of Governors