



3rd May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Ref: Appointment of Executive Headteacher

Some of you may recall that 18 months ago the Trust initiated a change to the leadership structure to bring the Infants and Junior Schools under one Executive Headteacher. This process was paused and acting positions created in the interim that are now due to finish. Oaklands Infants Acting Headteacher, Miss Weston, and her team have done a superb job and we now need to find a way of moving to a sustainable, permanent model that keeps our talented leaders whilst also accruing the benefits of closer collaboration.

The two schools already work well together but we believe there are significant education benefits around curriculum, teaching and learning, assessment and reporting, safeguarding and SEN from working more closely together. We are also cognisant of changing demographics which suggest a falling birth rate and a lower number of children entering education across both Wokingham and Bracknell. This challenge can be more appropriately addressed with one leadership team.

We are therefore delighted to announce a change in structure. From September 2024, Mrs Hazel West will be the Executive Headteacher of Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools. Mrs West will have overall responsibility for both schools with a specific focus on aligning school systems and processes, and sharing best practice. Miss Weston will be Head of School for the Infants and Mr Holland will be Head of School for the Juniors, both will carry out the day-to-day operations of the schools. Mrs West, Miss Weston and Mr Holland will form the core Senior Leadership Team. The wider leadership team remains unchanged including Mr Lee, Miss Noad, Miss Davies and Miss Devereaux. Collectively they make a brilliant team.

We have two great schools and are keen to protect all the great work and ethos that already exists. Over time, we hope you will see the benefits of closer alignment and smoother transition from one school to the other. As part of this process, we will also be merging the two governing bodies to streamline decision making. This process will take place during the summer term, with a new board in place for September 2024 and it is very much hoped that this will be comprised of your existing and excellent group of governors.

As a Trust we are very fortunate to have two great schools at Oaklands and we are even more fortunate to have great strength in the leadership, staff and governance at the schools. We look forward to seeing Oaklands go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely



Justine Waight
Chair of Trustees