



1 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the exciting future arrangements for our leadership structure at Ashford CE Primary School.

As you will know, the successful partnership with Laleham C of E Primary School was always set to end on 31 August 2022. The school has developed and continued to strive for higher standards under the outstanding leadership of Neil Meehan as our Executive Headteacher across both schools. During this time, we have built a strong SLT who are all focused on the best possible outcomes for your children. These times have not been without challenge and no one expected a pandemic to alter the way we live and work.

During this year Governors have been working hard to find the right next step for our school. They have considered appointing a substantive Headteacher for Ashford. Unfortunately, despite all our efforts we have been unable to recruit a suitable candidate. Governors feel strongly that we must make sure the right person is recruited to continue the drive for high standards and build upon the progress achieved in recent years. Whoever was appointed needed to add value to our very strong Senior Leadership Team and be the right person to continue the momentum that the Partnership has given us.

Governors have therefore decided that the next step should be to build on the foundations of the current partnership by seeking a new relationship with a local school and appointing another outstanding Executive Headteacher. I am absolutely delighted to be able to share with you the exciting news that Ashford CE Primary School will be forming a partnership with Littleton C of E Infant School under the very experienced and inspirational Executive Headteacher, Rachel Barton.

Mrs Barton has been working with our school over a number of years and so already feels a part of our team. She has a proven track record of raising standards and has supported and nurtured a number of schools to achieve the very best outcomes for pupils. Over the coming term she will be working with Mr Meehan and the SLT to ensure a detailed handover takes place so that our drive for a good outcome at our next Ofsted remains a high priority. There will be opportunities for you to meet Mrs Barton during the term and hear more about her vision for both of our schools and,

indeed, continuing collaboration amongst all the church schools locally to the benefit of all school communities.

This decision now provides us with a clear future and, whilst no time limit is envisaged, we would expect it to continue for at least the next four years. Our Senior Leadership Team who you will all know well, will remain in place with Miss Beacham continuing her excellent leadership as Head of School, Mrs Bailey as Deputy Head and Mrs Williams, Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Witt SENDCO/Inclusion Leader. I am sure you will recognise that we have a strong and committed team and join us in welcoming Mrs Barton to Ashford CE.

This is an exciting opportunity for all the staff, children and parents at both schools, in partnership with the London Diocesan Board for Schools and we appreciate your continued support.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, governors can be contacted through the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Wells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Wells

Chair of Governors