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Wednesday 5th June 2024

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that after careful consideration, research and discussion, our Governing Board has passed a resolution for Arunside Primary School to join Durrington Multi Academy Trust (DMAT).

DMAT is a small mixed Trust based in West Sussex with ethos, vision and values that align with those of Arunside.

Our priority has always been to ensure that the pupils in our school receive the best possible education and we have been considering the future direction of travel for the school so that we can continue to be an outward looking, excellent school that serves its community. We believe that this move will bring many benefits to our pupils, staff and wider community.

The decision to convert to an academy is not a decision that the governing body has taken lightly. The journey started when the Government announced in March 2022 that all schools would become part of an academy trust. So, over the past 24-months we have followed a due diligence process, and have met with various trusts and carefully considered which one was the 'best fit' for our school. It is important to note that this is not a 'done to' process as is the case for under performing schools. This is very much a proactive choice because we want to be part of something exciting, where we can participate in shaping the future.

What is an academy?

An academy is a state funded school that operates outside of local authority control. This means that an academy has more autonomy and flexibility.

Why are we making this change?

The decision to apply to become an academy has not been taken lightly. Academisation offers advantages that will ultimately enhance the education and opportunities we can provide to our school community. These include:

- Curriculum: As an academy, we will have more freedom to design and adapt our curriculum to suit our children.
- Resources: As part of a trust, we will be able to allocate resources more efficiently and will have greater purchasing power which will benefit the teaching and learning within the school.

Headteacher: Mrs Donna Jagger, BSC (Hons) PGCE, NPQH



- Staff development: Our staff team will have increased opportunities for professional development including opportunities to work with staff in other schools and share their expertise.
- Teaching and learning: As an academy we will have more capacity to focus primarily on continuing to provide an excellent, inclusive education with high expectations and outcomes for all.

What will change?

Any changes are likely to be behind the scenes.

The day-to-day experience of our children will largely remain unchanged. Arunside will retain its unique identity. Therefore, our name, uniform, values and commitment to providing a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment will not change.

Next steps

We are in the very early stages of the conversion process. An application will be submitted to the DfE and we will begin consultation with all stakeholders. During the period of consultation, we are keen to ensure that there are opportunities for staff, parents, carers and members of our wider community to ask questions and meet the DMAT team.

Consultation workshops will take place as follows:

- Monday 10th June at 2.30pm
- Monday 10th June at 6.30pm
- Thursday 13th June at 9.00am

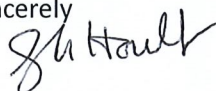
In addition, questions and comments can be submitted electronically [here](#) before 3rd July 2024.

Our pupils will also be kept informed and will have the chance to comment.

We are confident that this decision will enable us to provide an even better education for your children. We are dedicated to ensuring that the conversion to an academy is a positive experience for everyone involved and very much value your input.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Gemma Hoult - Vice-chair of Governors

Headteacher: Mrs Donna Jagger, BSC (Hons) PGCE, NPQH

