

**All Saints CEVA School**

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5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have thanked the staff for their hard work and contribution to the well-being of pupils at The Saints Federation of schools. We would also like to thank you for supporting your children with their attendance and learning at school.

The autumn term was a busy and successful one for the federation, with an Ofsted inspection at St Andrew's Primary. We are proud of the positive outcome and that the inspectors acknowledged the rapid improvements that have taken place with the interim leadership and its impact on pupils. We have been aware of the areas for curriculum development and this is an on-going focus for all staff. We are pleased that inspectors reported "pupils are happy", "feel safe" and "enjoy learning" at school. We attach the inspection report, which will be available on the Ofsted website within the next two weeks.

We have been asked to respond to a proposed change in the Planned Admission Number (PAN) 2024-2025 at All Saints CE VA Primary from 15 to 10, due to 'Catchment Numbers Reduced'. The school currently has an intake of 10 Reception Year pupils. Other small village schools are being asked to consult on a similar reduction based on local birth rates. Parents of All Saints Primary are invited to respond by emailing the school office by 19/01/23 with their comments about the 'Proposed PAN'.

Sadly, we are aware that some of our families at All Saints Primary have been targeted by malicious, anonymous messages which state that members of staff have been saying that children are leaving the school as a result of their child or family circumstance and this will force the school to close. We seek to emphatically reassure you that this has not been the case. Mobility in a small rural primary happens for a variety of valid reasons which the IEB regularly monitors as part of their role.

We would like to thank the parents who have proactively engaged with and supported the schools, seeking clarification around any false or worrying statements in order to check their validity. We would encourage all our parents to do this. We remain concerned that other families may have been targeted with anonymous messages and we would encourage them to talk to the school. As a federation, we will not tolerate any behaviour which is perceived to be intimidating, malicious or which libels members of our community.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the intention or role of the IEB to close any of our schools. To the contrary, the Interim Executive Board and Interim Executive Headteacher have been working tirelessly to secure the sustainable future of the schools within the community. Within our letter of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, we made it clear that the Interim Executive Board was not in place to close the schools and that the future viability of our schools was in your hands as parents.

The Local Authority expects the IEB to consider the long-term future of the schools and as such we have discussed the vulnerability of small schools with the Local Authority and the diocese. This has led to plans to

**Executive Headteacher:** Miss R. Price

seek consultation from stakeholders on the sponsored academy solution for The Saints Federation schools. As church schools this would mean becoming part of one of two diocesan multi-academy trusts where there would be opportunities for collaboration, mutual support and improvement with similar schools. I have sent an accompanying letter explaining the purpose and the process of this consultation.

Please be assured that we wish to safeguard the future interests of the three schools by keeping their individual identities and by meeting the needs of their communities.

We wish you and your families good health for 2023.

Kind regards

Kay Swann  
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