



Believe, Learn and Achieve

Acting Executive Headteacher: Mr S. Geary
Acting Head of School: Mr M. Wignell

Swingate Primary School

Sultan Road
Lordswood
Chatham
Kent
ME5 8TJ

12th March 2020

Dear pupils, families and friends of Swingate Primary School,

I trust everyone is safe and well, and our recent return to school has been a smooth transition for you all.

Further to my letter at the end of last year regarding Miss Boon leaving our school as Head Teacher, I'm writing to advise you of the latest developments and reasoning behind our decisions. At the time I laid out our Governing Boards plans, which we felt were achievable at the time. However due to the winter lock down, recruitment process milestones and challenges we face we have decided to extend our interim leadership arrangements until August 2022.

As such we will continue with Mr Geary as Acting Executive Head Teacher, Mr Wignell as Acting Head of School, Mrs Dark as Deputy Head Teacher, and Mrs Clarke and Mrs Davis as Acting Deputy Head Teachers.

The Governing Body review this arrangement regularly through a variety of means such as our Head Teacher recruitment panel, Full Governing Board meetings and monthly reviews with Medway Council and Horsted School. We have the best interests of our school at heart and want to ensure we follow a proper and thorough process in recruiting a leader for our school. We also want to ensure we maintain stability for the whole school and the leadership team, whilst as a country we navigate our way out of what we hope is the end of the pandemic.

The final factor is that you may have seen in the news that the Department of Education is considering making a number of changes within the education system that could impact us, so it is also important that we use this opportunity of change to ensure we position Swingate in the best possible position for the future, without knee jerking and causing unnecessary change and disruption.

I will continue to keep you updated as this process develops, as we want to be transparent and open about these significant decisions that have an impact on our school community.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the School Governors via email at governors@swingate.medway.sch.uk or you can hand a letter to the school office marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely

John Murdoch
Chair of Governors

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