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14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we approach the end of the Spring term the Governing Body thought it would be helpful to confirm the latest information we have on the changes to the school system in Pershore Education Planning Area and our own planning towards Primary Conversion.

We are also aware that Pinvin CE First school and St Nicholas Middle School have just issued a consultation, which may have caused some confusion. This consultation proposes amalgamating the two schools, and the pre-school, which already operate under a single leadership and are part of the same Academy Trust into a single school. The consultation confirms that if the amalgamation goes ahead they would still continue to accept children into Year 5 from other First Schools in the area. We therefore believe the impact on our school is negligible, but of course would encourage parents to read the full consultation and respond if they wish to do so. The consultation can be found here:

<https://stnicholas.ovw5.juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Age+Range+Consultation&pid=87>

The latest update on the changes to the school system in Pershore, which enable us to convert to a Primary School, was received in December 2023. The full update is detailed on our website but in summary The Department for Education have agreed the changes that Pershore High School would need to make to be able to accept additional year 7 pupils direct from the converted Primary schools. Furthermore, it is agreed that the associated building work for the High School can take place alongside the partial School Rebuilding Programme already underway and therefore the earliest all the Year 7 pupils could be accommodated at Pershore High School is September 2027. This would mean our current Year 3 children would be the first children to be offered the opportunity to stay at our school for Years 5 and 6, before then transitioning to Pershore High School for Year 7. However, these timings have yet to be confirmed by the Local Authority and the Diocese.

You may recall that as part of our original planning to convert to a Primary School we shared plans to expand the footprint of the school. These plans still stand and, while they have been reconfirmed by the Local Authority and we have confirmation that they will be funded, we do not yet have a build start date. That said, the main building changes are actually for the Early Years (Pre school and Reception) and therefore welcoming Year 5 children is not dependant on that build being completed. There are though a number of other tasks that need to be completed for our conversion to take place and be a success, including confirming the curriculum, recruiting an Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5/6) teacher, developing contingency accommodation arrangements while the build takes place, reviewing uniform and updating the school logo/branding.

The Governing Body has set up a Project team to plan, organise and control the work required to deliver Primary Conversion successfully. The project is in the early stages, but is building momentum, and we have already visited another school which recently converted to a Primary School to talk to their Governors about the approach they took and any lessons they learned during the process. This will be invaluable to us as we move through our own planning and work. It is our intention to issue regular updates on progress, and will be updating our website too. Initially we expect this will be half termly, but will be more frequent as the conversion date nears.

We do currently have a Governor vacancy. With our Primary Conversion plans it is an exciting time to join the Governing Body and be able to help shape the school's future. So, if you are interested in helping to ensure our school's vision and strategy is delivered; overseeing our financial performance and making sure money is well spent; and helping to ensure that every pupil at Fladbury has the best possible education please contact either of us and we would be happy to discuss the role in more detail.

Finally, if anyone has any questions about anything in this letter please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of us via email ([head@fladbury.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@fladbury.worcs.sch.uk) or [jrobson@fladbury.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:jrobson@fladbury.worcs.sch.uk)).

Yours sincerely,



Julie Wilson

Headteacher



Jenny Robson

Acting Chair of Governors