

Thursday 29th March 2018

Dear Parents,

As we enter the Easter Holidays, I'm pleased to be writing to you with several updates on important decisions that we've recently made.

New Head Teacher – Cath Bainbridge

I'm pleased to let you know we've confirmed Mrs Bainbridge into role as the new Head Teacher of Maple Tree Lower School. This appointment is with immediate effect and follows her successful interim headship where we have continued to see good results across all aspects of the school and recently underwent a challenging but ultimately successful Ofsted inspection returning a "good" rating for the school.

I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Mrs Bainbridge on her appointment and wishing her every success as we continue our journey on improving outcomes for all our pupils across the school.

Consultation Results

As you may be aware, we recently ran a consultation exercise asking the local community to consider whether Maple Tree should transition from a Lower School to a Primary School, additionally offering education to children in Year 5 & 6. This consultation closed on 19th March 2018 and the results were reviewed by the Governing Body on Wednesday 27th March 2018.

In total we received 26 responses, with 77% of these either "strongly agreeing" or "agreeing" with the consultation's intent. Whilst a further 19% either "disagreed" or "strongly disagreed" (4% were indifferent) it was clear the overwhelming preference from the consultation responses, written feedback and the Parents Open Evening was that Maple Tree should become a Primary School in September 2019.

As a governing body, we are confident that this decision is right for Maple Tree, our current pupils, parents, staff and the local community. We look forward to serving Sandy as a Primary School for many years to come and will be communicating this result to the appropriate interested parties.

CBC Letter to Year 4 parents & potential to bring forward Primary transition to Sep-18

We are aware that yesterday afternoon, some of our Year 4 parents were sent a letter from Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services at Central Bedfordshire Council. In this letter, CBC have shared their view on the current situation surrounding Sandye Place Academy and what this might mean for Year 4 pupils who had previously noted SPA as their preference for the academic year 2018/19. In this letter it is clear that CBC are seeking input from parents on whether you'd like to see Maple Tree offer Year 5 education from September 2018, 12 months earlier than the original consultation transition date.

We are continuing to have open dialogue with the project team at CBC and have shared our views on what an earlier transition would require, together with the support we'd need from them to ensure we can confidently offer this from Sep-18.

We'd urge parents to offer their feedback into this process in the next week or so, as we can then work with CBCs project team to ensure that we offer the right options (for Year 5 education) to our Year 4 children.

If you have any questions on this, or any additional feedback you'd like to share then please contact me via email at chairofgovs@mapletreelowerschool.com

I wish you all a Happy Easter and hope you are able to enjoy time with loved ones.

Yours Sincerely,

Ted Rowland
Chair of Governors
Maple Tree Lower School