



Shoreham Village School
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Sevenoaks
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24th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As a responsible governing body, in common with other governing bodies and school leadership teams across the county- and indeed across the country - over the last 18 months we have been and are continuing to explore the future management of the school.

Shoreham Village School was judged by Ofsted as 'Good' at its last inspection in 2019. We want to continue being a 'Good' school and will always make decisions based on what we feel is most likely to improve opportunities for children and staff.

As a small school, we recognise that we need support to do this. As you are possibly aware, the local authority support for schools has been reduced over the past few years. In addition, the increased cost of living, energy costs and statutory wage increases have hugely impacted school budgets, and these additional costs have not been reflected in current funding from the DfE. Against a backdrop of financial challenges right across the public sector, the support we need can come from one of three routes: the local authority; entering into a partnership of federation with other schools; or by joining a family of schools in an academy trust.

We are examining the option of joining an academy trust. There are many types with differing offers some attractive, some not, but we have come to the general conclusion that further investigation is in order.

We are currently in the Sevenoaks Partnership of Primary Schools which provides training and networking opportunities for our pupils and staff but does not offer any financial security or significant savings.

Staff have been kept up to date with the work we are doing on investigating our options, and we will continue to ensure that their opinions are included in the decision making.

No plans are finalised at this stage, and we will be in touch soon with parents and carers to invite you to contribute your own thoughts and views. We are enclosing a Q&A document about what it means to join an academy trust, and if you have any questions in the meantime, then please use the forms link below:

<https://forms.gle/seCypPm7RbZ9jYxT6>

Our key aim is to ensure that our school thrives while continuing to maintain its unique ethos, values and character, to provide an excellent education for the children and the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Jasper Dale
Chair of Governors

