

Otterham C.P. School

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Dear Parents

It has been a couple of months since we told you about the plans to form a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with St Teath Primary, St Breward Primary, Camelford Primary and Sir James Smith's Secondary schools. The general election has put things on hold but we expect to apply to the Regional Headteacher's Board outlining the structure of the MAT (North Cornwall Learning Trust – NCLT) by the end of June.

Camelford Primary is currently without a headteacher so Mrs Ward is supporting Mr Lawrence (SJS's headteacher) and Mr Bacchus (St Teath & St Breward headteacher) in leading the school for this term as an interim measure.

In light of the national funding crisis for schools (see website for further information) - governors, headteachers, business managers and bursars across all schools have been looking at our financial futures and are sure that working together as a MAT is the best way forward. The cooperation at Camelford Primary is the first step in this new way of working.

Otterham Primary School has retained Mrs Ward as a full-time teaching headteacher for a number of years – this is now unusual in small schools where many share a headteacher. From September 2017, this will no longer be possible due to budget pressures. The governors are in agreement that in the spirit of forming a MAT, Mrs Ward will continue to be headteacher at Otterham and in addition will be head of St Breward.

All governing bodies have met and agreed to the proposals, the structure of the schools leadership and that of the proposed MAT is as follows:

- Mrs Ward – Head of Otterham and St Breward Primaries
- Mr Bacchus – Head of Camelford and St Teath Primaries
- Mr Lawrence – Head of Sir James Smiths
- Within the next few weeks, it is planned to appoint a Deputy Headteacher to assist at Otterham, St Breward and Camelford Primaries

Consultations where parents, pupils and staff can have their say will be part of the process.

I believe that formation of a MAT is the best way forward for the education of the children at Otterham and the other schools involved. Working closely together to share resources will be good for finances and education. Closer links between the primaries and Sir James Smiths will provide many opportunities including improved transition arrangements.

Kind regards

Mr Julian Elson
Chair of Governors

