

ST. ANDREW'S C. of E. INFANT SCHOOL

An Academy in The Good Shepherd Trust



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18th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Governance Arrangements at St Andrew's Infant School and Potters Gate Primary School

As you know Potters Gate and St Andrew's have been working closely together during the last academic year, sharing executive leadership and SENCO support and opening up access to Potters Gate for St Andrew's children in Year 3 from September 2019 onwards, through a change in Potters Gate's Admissions Policy.

The Good Shepherd Trust (GST) – of which both schools are members – and Guildford Diocese's Education Department have developed long term strategies which encourage ever-closer working between schools. As part of that strategic planning, the GST asked the two local governing bodies of Potters Gate and St Andrew's to consider combining, to match our shared leadership arrangements.

At a joint meeting in April, both governing bodies agreed unanimously to proceed and subsequently a small working party met to consider combining the governing bodies. At a joint meeting in June, governors agreed to combine the two governing bodies, with existing governors automatically becoming governors of the new merged body if they wished to continue. I believe this is a really exciting prospect for both schools as we forge ahead together.

The GST has agreed that, a single local governing body will come into existence to oversee both schools in September 2018. Having been Chair of Governors at St Andrew's for a considerable time, I am happy to stand aside so that Larry Peppin, currently Chair of Governors at Potters Gate, can be appointed as the Chair of the new governing body. (Until she retired 3 years ago, Larry had been the Headteacher at William Cobbett School for 26 years and I have very much enjoyed working alongside Larry over the past few months.)

At St Andrew's, we will be losing Claire Byus as our Staff Governor, as she embarks on the next phase of her life as a foster parent. In addition, due to pressure of work, both Jon Neal and James Southgate are standing down as Parent Governors. I would like to thank them all for their contribution and support in their time as governors, and I'd particularly like to thank Claire for her contribution to the life of the school as a class teacher over many years. Even though St Andrew's is considerably smaller than Potters Gate, we recognised the need to maintain representation on the new body for both staff and parents, so there will be elections once we return to school in September.

I would also like to take this end-of-term opportunity to thank all parents and carers for the support they have given the school during the year and to offer my best wishes to those children who are about to leave St Andrew's - I am sure they will look back very fondly on their time "Learning to Learn, Learning for Life" at St Andrew's.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hyland
Chair of Governors

