



St James' Church of England Junior School

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12 January 2024

Dear parents/carers

You will likely have heard in the news and from other parents about many schools across the country and Gloucestershire joining Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). At the moment we have a split education system, with many schools in multi academy trusts and many still working with their Local Education Authorities. Government agenda has made it very clear that they want all schools to be part of a MAT as soon as possible. Over the last year many local schools in Gloucestershire have made the decision to join local Multi Academy Trusts (MATs)

Therefore, after careful consideration from many parties, the decision has been made for St James Junior School and Hatherley Infant School to join a local Multi Academy Trust (MAT). All involved in making this decision, strongly believe that it is the best thing for both schools and helps ensure their long-term futures as we all move away from Local Authority support. We are expecting St James C of E School and Hatherley Infant School will become part of this Multi Academy Trust on 1st April 2024.

As parents of children at our schools, and the children themselves, you will not notice virtually any changes to the normal day to day running of the schools and the education your children receive. The initial changes that do have to occur, are all generally legal formalities and involve mainly governors, senior leadership and administration of the schools. However, the staffing structure will not change and I will remain as Executive Headteacher of both schools. The MAT we are joining are very aware of our growing numbers and how we work together as a Federation to ensure an all through education for all our children, supporting you as parents and ensuring we celebrate our uniqueness within our Barton and Tredworth community. They are committed to ensuring we can continue to develop together as two schools and within their family of schools.

It is now widely recognised that, with a shrinking local authority, staff and pupils of the school would benefit from joining a larger organisation to enable them to continue to thrive. Joining this MAT will enable more professional development opportunities for staff, which will result in even better educational outcomes for pupils. Both schools' leadership teams will be able, with support from the Trust, to focus on teaching and learning as the DGAT central team will support with some of the more time-consuming administrative responsibilities.

Attached to this letter is a letter from Rachel Howie. She is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In the letter you will see a link to the Multi Academy Trust we are joining, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and a date of a meeting that Rachel will be holding, to give you as parents the opportunity to meet her and ask her any questions you might have relating to St James and Hatherley joining the MAT. The meeting will be held at St James School at 3:30pm as we believe this venue is the most convenient for most parents, especially after pick up time.

As always, we would like to thank you for your continued support of all the staff here at SJJSS and HIS.

Yours sincerely

Simon Millington
Executive Headteacher

Amanda Chong
Chair of Governors