



Bridlewood Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs V Sammon

A place for learning, caring, sharing and growing together.

13th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

At the recent parents meeting on the 28th September, Peter Nathan from the local authority stated that the South West Headteachers Board would sit on the 9th October to decide on the best sponsor to support Bridlewood on its school improvement journey. Potential sponsors were the White Horse Federation and The Faringdon Academy of School. As a school we had expressed a preference for the Faringdon Academy mainly due to the existing relationship and familiarity of Mrs Sammon with that organisation.

The board take into account a number of factors such as parent opinion, current Academy Trust coverage in the area and also representations from the sponsors mentioned above. However, the absolute priority of the board is to identify the sponsor with a proven track record in improving schools therefore most likely to affect rapid improvement for Bridlewood.

On this basis the decision of the board is to place us with the White Horse Federation. I have already had a lengthy discussion with Dr. Nick Capstick, the Chief Executive Officer of the WHF, to begin the process. Both Mrs Sammon and myself will meet with the WHF next week to start the detailed discussions and will then have a better understanding of the process and timescales. This is not an overnight activity and will take several months before we are finally converted to academy status. I am pleased to say that school life for the children will largely continue as normal both during the process and after the process is complete.

The staff and governors have been working hard since December in making the required improvements for the school. However, with the depth of experience and additional resources the WHF can bring, along with its proven track record in this area, we look forward to accelerating those improvement initiatives and securing the best possible outcomes for our children.

I intend to hold another parents meeting in the near future where we can share the plans and answer any questions you may have. A date will be set once we understand the timescales in more detail. The success of any school is dependant on the continued support of the parents/carers and the community as much as the professionalism and dedication of its staff. I have had a good amount of feedback from parents and I am extremely pleased with the level of support and confidence shown in what we are doing. Please continue to support your child and the school as we continue to drive the changes required for that success.

Yours sincerely
Don Chadwick

