

Ladysmith Federation

Friday 16th October 2020

We are writing to all parents and carers to share some exciting news about Ladysmith Federation and our plans for the future. In this letter we are setting out some changes to the Federation that we hope will deliver greater financial stability, closer collaboration across both schools and increasing opportunities for further development of the educational opportunities that we can offer to all of the children within the Federation.

Following a detailed review and appraisal process in the summer term of the leadership options available to the Federation in light of Emma Brown leaving at Christmas, the governors unanimously decided to appoint an Executive Headteacher to lead and manage both the infant and junior schools within the Federation. After a rigorous interview process, we are delighted to announce that Mark Wilkinson, current headteacher at the Junior School, has been appointed to this role. The Federation will continue to be a maintained school with this new leadership structure in place, and will continue to receive ongoing support from Devon County Council.

Mark will be supported by two Heads of School and after a competitive recruitment process, we are delighted to confirm that Dave Broad will be taking up the role of Head of School in the Infant School and Neil Williams will be Head of School at the Junior School. This will be initially for two terms from January 1st 2021. We are very pleased that both schools will benefit from such strength of leadership, and that they will continue to be supported by the experienced and committed staff body that we already have in place across both schools. This will help to ensure that we continue to provide the best educational experience we can for the children who attend our schools. The new senior leadership team will work closely with existing leaders at the Infant School who have invaluable and extensive experience in EYFS, KS1 and the Opal Play strategy and whose own leadership will form a vital part of the team. We are also confident that moving forwards, the new leadership structure and the enhanced collaboration will provide numerous professional development opportunities for staff at both schools which we are really pleased about.

The current Infant School Business Manager, Jessie Hay, has also recently decided to leave for a new senior role at a secondary school and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work, relentless energy and unwavering commitment to doing the best she can for the Infant School. She will be very much missed and we wish her all the luck in her new role. Jessie leaving obviously leaves a big gap at the Infant School; however, we are delighted to tell you that Lorraine Carter, Junior School Business Manager, has been appointed Federation Business Manager and from the 1st November, she will be working across both schools as a key part of the leadership team, ensuring both schools are fully supported.

Mark will be writing to the parents of those classes directly affected by these staffing changes in a separate letter. If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to contact Mark Wilkinson on mwilkinson@ladysmithfederation.net or 01392 255554.

Ambition  Adventure  Achievement