



St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

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Tuesday 25th April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

St Clement CE Primary Academy: A new school for Shoreham

We are delighted that St Clement CE Primary Academy has now been given the go ahead by the Department for Education (DfE). The DfE has acknowledged the need to create additional school places in Shoreham and recognised the reputation and capacity of St Nic's & St Mary's to open a new 'sister' school.

Our Diocesan Director of Education, Dr Canon Ann Holt OBE said, "The Diocese of Chichester, alongside St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School, is delighted to be a part of this Free School bid and we are thrilled that another school will join our family of church schools."

Tim Loughton MP has written, "This is great news for pupils and parents in Shoreham and I would like to congratulate all those at St Nic's and St Mary's who have made a successful case to the Department for Education for spreading their expertise and quality education to a new sister school. This will be the first Free School in Adur and will help to plug the gap for the school places we urgently need as new developments in and around Shoreham bring new families to our town. Parents will now have even more choice for the most appropriate school for their children and it is impressive that we have such an excellent family of schools offering high quality education across the district."

Overall, the DfE has just approved 131 additional Free Schools across the country including 8 new schools in West Sussex and a secondary school in Brighton and Hove.

We anticipate that St Clement CE Primary Academy will open in September 2018. We had hoped to open the new school in 2017 to meet the current demand for school places. However, this is not possible as we need to work within DfE timescales.

There will be a statutory consultation about the new school later in the year which we will keep you and the wider community informed about. We will also explain how the new school will work in partnership with St Nic's for the benefit of all.

For those interested in working in the new school, particularly potential administration staff, please register your interest by emailing StClement@stnm.org.uk

Finally, we are grateful for the support and encouragement of many members of the community and parents from St Nic's and beyond for St Clement CE Primary Academy.

Kind regards

David Etherton
Executive Headteacher