



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

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Executive Headteacher Mr D Etherton B.Ed Hons. NPQH

Acting Headteacher Mr A Lincoln BA Hons

10th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Bishop Otter Academy Trust – Update

It was lovely to be able to see some of the Christmas activities at the end of last term. We are grateful that although some things were scaled back due to COVID, we were still able to continue with our nativity plays and carols. I hope that you were able to have a lovely break with your family and friends over Christmas.

I am writing to inform you that, in the last week of term, the Diocesan Board of Education gave consent for St Andrew's CE Primary School in Crawley to join Bishop Otter Academy Trust (BOAT) alongside St Nicolas and St Mary's CE Primary School in Shoreham.

On the penultimate day of term, the Department for Education approved plans for both schools to join, and in effect start, BOAT. This means that our school is likely to join the trust in the next 3-6 months.

Governors recognise the growing collaboration between the two schools and some of the benefits that this is bringing. We have already had two joint meetings with governors from both schools, one virtual and one at St Nic's. Next term we will have a joint governor meeting at St Andrew's. It has been great to hear how senior leaders and teachers are beginning to work together for the benefit of our children – sharing resources and visiting one another's schools.

We expect that more schools will join BOAT as we demonstrate the benefits of being part of a group of schools working closely together.

There will be more information to follow from BOAT. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr Etherton, Mr Lincoln or another member of our Senior Leadership Team.

Kind regards

Julie Searle

Chair of Governors