



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

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Headteacher Mr D Etherton B.Ed Hons. NPQH

Associate Headteacher Mr A Lincoln BA Hons

07/04/2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

**Important BOAT and leadership update: New Headteacher and Executive Headteacher/CEO**

As you will be aware, St Nicolas and St Mary's is in the process of joining the Bishop Otter Academy Trust. The school has been working closely with the DfE, diocese, local authority and BOAT over this term as we prepare to be the first school to join the trust. Our target date is the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 and we will mark the occasion with a special assembly with our children shortly after that. Mr Lincoln and Mr Etherton will also be explaining to the children what it means to be an academy in a fun and innovative way!

The DfE have recently published a 'white paper' outlining their intent for all schools to join a strong trust by 2030. It is therefore a privilege for St Nicolas & St Mary's to take a pioneering lead in establishing the trust with the support of a substantial grant from the DfE. We expect St Andrew's in Crawley to join BOAT on 1<sup>st</sup> July and others over the following year.

Academy trusts are required to have a CEO/Accounting officer, and we are delighted that the trustees of BOAT have formally appointed Mr Etherton as CEO of the trust. Whilst the trust remains small, Mr Etherton will be part time CEO and part time Executive Headteacher in St Nic's and St Andrew's schools. This means that Mr Etherton has resigned from his substantive post as headteacher of St Nicolas & St Mary's.

Mr David Etherton has been headteacher for nearly 16 years in our school following his appointment in 2006. It was his second headship and joined us at a vulnerable time following a difficult Ofsted inspection. Since then the school has gone from strength, doubling in size and seeing the establishment of a nursery and wraparound care. We have gained many awards including a Bishop's Commendation and 'outstanding' in SIAMS inspections. Whilst we are not 'losing' Mr Etherton, and he will still be around, we wish him all the best as he takes on a new permanent role to lead the Bishop Otter Academy Trust, with effect from when the school joins BOAT.

Following Mr Etherton's resignation, the governors are delighted to announce that following a tough interview process, supported by the diocese, we have appointed **Mr Andy Lincoln** as our new **permanent Headteacher**. Mr Lincoln has been Acting Headteacher and undertaken several secondments in Brighton and Hove over the last 6 years. We are sure that you will join us in congratulating Mr Lincoln as he takes up his permanent position as we join BOAT.

**Easter**

Governors recognise that it has been a challenging term for families and staff with many pressures and worries around us. I hope that you have a good Easter break.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1 verse 3)*

Kind regards

Julie Searle

Chair of Governors