



## **Inclusive Learning Federation Bradwell Village, Romans Field and Priory Common Schools**

### **The Federation**

Following consultation with parents, staff and interested parties of Bradwell Village School, Priory Common School and Romans Field School, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the governing boards from the 3 schools voted to federate from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

### ***What does being federated mean?***

Although the federation has an overarching name, each individual school will retain their own name, they will be inspected separately and the schools will retain their own budgets. There will be one governing board for the 3 schools with representation from all schools. The composition of the governing board is 1 Executive Headteacher, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 staff governor, 3 parent governors, 12 co-opted governors and 2 associate governors. The co-opted and associate governors include parents from three schools, business/community representatives and the 3 Heads of School (one from each school).

In order that the governing board can carry out its work, there is a committee structure.

Finance and Resources Committee - this is a joint committee responsible for the budgets for the 3 schools.  
Standards and Teaching and Learning Committees – as the standards in a special school are judged differently to the standards in a mainstream school, there will be two standards, teaching and learning committees - one for Romans Field School and the other for Priory Common and Bradwell Village School.  
Curriculum Committee – this is a joint committee which is responsible for the effectiveness of the curriculum in the 3 schools.

### ***Benefits of the federation for pupils***

The 3 schools have already been working together and the pupils have benefited from shared staff expertise in supporting different groups e.g. Special Educational Needs children have benefited from staff who are experienced in working with children with complex needs and access to the federation's counsellor. Our higher attaining mathematicians from Bradwell and Priory Common have been working with Rachel Scott who is providing stretch and challenge to them. Priory Common's more able writers joined Bradwell Village writers for an enrichment morning. Activities such as these as well as other enrichment and support activities will continue in the future.

### ***Benefits of the federation for staff***

Recruitment and retention in Milton Keynes continues to be a problem for schools, therefore being able to provide opportunities for staff to work across the federation provides them with wider opportunities. An Outreach Lead post has been created at Romans Field to enable a member of staff to work in all 3 schools supporting staff who are working with our more complex children. The Assistant Headteacher/Year Team Leader for Year 3 from Bradwell Village is working with the staff and pupils at Priory Common to get to know the children and to share practice which will enhance the transition arrangements for our year 2 pupils. The new and trainee teachers have had opportunities to visit and learn from the different schools and staff have mentored each other in their own school and across the schools. There have also been joint staff training days when we have been able to work on topics together so that teaching and learning strategies used are the same. All of this helps our children,



especially those who will move from Priory Common to Bradwell Village as strategies will be the same. This also helps the children at Romans Field as they will be working in the same way as mainstream children do which will help more to transition back to mainstream.

## School Updates

### *Priory Common School*

Since the beginning of term, we have been running early morning sessions for our pupil premium children to develop their reading and phonics skills and to support the children in improving other areas which they need support with.



The breakfast reading and phonics sessions which were held before Christmas for an identified group of children was hugely successful in enabling the group to improve their knowledge of the year 1 common exception words. Nearly all of the pupils mastered the 45 common exception words and those who didn't achieve all 45 words were just below this target.

Our after-school clubs are extremely popular and the take-up has included a large number of our children from early years. Our October half term holiday sessions were very popular and this has led to an even more ambitious programme being offered for the forthcoming February half term and training day.

Our reading morning and grandparents' session attracted many parents and grandparents who enjoyed working with their children.

This term our children in early years have been learning about dinosaurs and they have been exploring the Chinese New Year. The class have settled into their new routines and many are making very good progress in reading, writing and number.



We continue to improve the learning environment of the school and this year we have had new boilers installed. We have identified an issue with the current heating system and arrangements have been made with the Local Authority to replace the whole of the heating system during the summer holidays. More details will be provided to parents and our immediately neighbours who may be affected by the work, nearer the time and when we know what the implications for this work will be.



The results of our recent questionnaire to parents showed that over 80% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed with 9 out of the 14 statements, over 70% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with 11 out of the 14 statements. Over 30% of parents said that they didn't know if bullying was dealt with effectively and 29% of parents didn't know if we listen to pupils. We have identified one area that the school needs to improve upon, this being the school regularly contacts me about my child and we are working to improve our communication to parents.

We have carried out a pupil questionnaire and listened to pupils about their choices for topics to be studied as well as their thoughts on our new lunch time arrangements. The written feedback highlighted



the need to have sessions for parents at different times of the day. Last year we increased the number of reports we sent out to parents and we introduced the yellow communications book which some parents use. Following the completion of the parent questionnaire I have also invited parents to contact me to discuss any points they raised. I would like to encourage parents to use the yellow communications book or to contact me should you have the need to discuss any issues concerning your child or the school.

Parents and carers can contact the school using the following email address – [office@priory-common.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:office@priory-common.milton-keynes.sch.uk).

### **Bradwell Village School**

Throughout the year, the staff have been working with individual children and small groups in order to develop their knowledge and skills enabling them to make more rapid progress. These interventions take place during English and maths lessons and also during the afternoon sessions.

We have introduced a maths session for parents to enable them to learn about how we teach maths so that they are more able to support their child.



Our creative weeks have been very well attended for the sessions when parents can work with their child and also for the celebration of the work completed during creative weeks.



We have had many sporting successes with the recent success of both of the Strictly Dancing teams who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the local competition and both teams are preparing for the next round of the competition when they are representing Milton Keynes.

After half term we are expanding our after-school sporting activities by introducing 'sport for fun' sessions for children who have an interest in developing their abilities and doing sport because they enjoy it. We are continuing to develop the learning environment for the children and we are exploring the replacement of all of the doors throughout the school and the IT provision to enhance the learning experience for children.

We recognise that the provision of after-school and holiday care is essential for our parents, carers and the local community. Some of you may be aware of the local challenges and legacy issues relating to the provision of care, therefore, it is prudent to review this to ensure that it is right for the children of today and in the future, at a price which is affordable to parents and which covers the costs incurred by the school. Following extensive discussions about the future of the wraparound care for children attending Bradwell Village Children Club (BVCC), in order to redress the fact that the school has been subsidising BVCC, a private company, for a significant period of time, we have sought legal advice and are currently trying to resolve a few final issues which remain. Parents can be assured that there will continue to be after-school care and holiday provision for children from Bradwell Village, Heelands and Priory Common schools, irrespective of the outcomes of discussions with BVCC.





On 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019, Bradwell Village School will be 40 years old. We will be marking this anniversary with a range of activities during the creative weeks in September and we are interested in hearing from parents about how we might celebrate this occasion. We will also be seeking ideas from pupils.

Recently, some parents have shown interested in re-establishing a parent-teacher association/friends of Bradwell Village School. If you are interested in being part of a group please let the school office know.

### **Romans Field School**

We are further developing the school building by creating an inclusion and therapy base. Recently, we have had an increase in the number of pupils attending Romans Field which has required us to review the spaces in the boarding end and identify possible areas where we can create teaching rooms. The development of the reception area is underway and we are going out to tender so that our entrance into the school is much more pleasant for pupils, parents and visitors.



Recently the topic the children have been studying is 'People who help us'. As part of this project the police, fire brigade and ambulance service have visited us and talked to the children about the work they do. Our year 6 pupils have also been to 'Kidzania' in London to explore different career opportunities.



Before Christmas, all of the classes visited 'IFly' and experienced what it is like to float in the air and 'fly'.

At the start of the month, parents and carers got together to discuss how the school can help them to access different agencies who can support them and their children.

To enhance the learning at Romans Field we are developing the IT provision by increasing the number of iPads the children have access to. The children and staff have received 'lessons' from the Apple store in Milton Keynes to help them to use the iPads effectively.



### **Pupil Numbers**

The fall in the birth rate and the reduced number of young children within the Central Milton Keynes area has had an effect on the number of children in all of the established schools. This in a number of schools in the local area, has resulted in them reducing the maximum number of children the schools will admit from September 2019. At Priory Common we are not reducing our Pupil Admission Number but the number of classes in each year group will be determined by the number of children who apply for a place at the school.

I hope you have found this newsletter informative.

Best wishes  
Diane Elleman  
Executive Headteacher