



# The Dove Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Disney



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Dear Parents/Carers

Whilst schools have been closed to all children apart from key workers and vulnerable groups we have been busy planning for the future of the Dove Federation and what school will hopefully look like in September.

Those of you who have been parents at Caston for some time may recall that when Parker's received its category 4 Ofsted judgement in July 2018 there was talk of both Parker's and Caston becoming academies and joining the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT). I am pleased to say, that at last the DfE have agreed that the consultation to join DNEAT can begin. If the consultation process goes well and these proposals are accepted, we are aiming to join them on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Within the next couple of weeks, we will be writing to all parents/carers to outline what this will look like and what will and will not change as part of this process, this will then allow you the opportunity to be consulted on your views about joining DNEAT.

Sadly, for us before we entered lock down Miss Gooda successfully secured herself a new teaching post at a school closer to home. Miss Gooda will remain with us until the end of the Summer Term, whilst we are going to miss her we wish her all the best in her new post.

With Miss Gooda's departure this has allowed us to have a good think about what is right for our children particularly when they have missed such a large proportion of this school year due to the pandemic. This will have affected our children academically and socially and we want to do everything in our power to try to support them in both of these areas when we return in September.

With this in mind, we have made some changes to how we are going to be operating from September. These changes have been agreed by the staff team and the school's governors.

In September, we will be having a mixed reception and Year 1 class on a morning, which will be taught by Miss Lindop. We really feel that this will be beneficial to our current reception children and will allow them the opportunity to have a transitional period between reception and year 1 with an adult who they are familiar with.

*"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10*

Year 2 are going to be a stand-alone class on a morning, they will be taught by Mrs Hannant who will be joining us from September. Mrs Hannant is a highly experienced year 2 teacher who has lots of expertise she can bring to the school in this role. We are hoping that Year 2 being on their own on a morning will allow them to have an opportunity to catch up on any learning that they have missed in a very small teaching group where each individual can have targeted support. On an afternoon they will be joining Miss Lindop's group. This will allow them an opportunity to be part of a larger group where they are able to socialise with a wider peer group thus continuing to grow their wider social and emotional skills whilst following the national curriculum.

Mr Halmshaw is going to remain as our Year 3 and 4 teacher and from September, Miss Reynolds will be moving into Year 5 and 6. We are excited about Miss Reynold's move into Year 5 and 6 and feel that this will be a positive experience for all of our children. Later on during this half term I will write to you again to outline which support staff will be working with each class and which classroom the children will be based in as we are going to have to move around some of our classrooms.

Mrs Ward, one of our TAs who works across both schools, has asked me to write to all parents/carers to let you know that sadly her youngest son has been diagnosed with Leukaemia whilst we have been in lock-down. She wanted me to share this information with you as she wants the children to know that she is sorry that she is not going to be able to say good bye to them and she wishes them well as they move on to their new schools. I am sure you will all join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to the whole family at this difficult time.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any queries or questions.

Kind regards

Mrs Disney

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