



Longvernal Primary School

Outdoor Learning Leaders

Clapton Road
Midsomer Norton
Radstock BA3 2LP
Telephone: 01761 412777
Fax: 01761 419883

Email: longvernal_pri@bathnes.gov.uk
Website: www.longvernal.com

Headteacher: Kerrie Courtier

1st March 2016

Dear Parents.

As you will no doubt be aware, Longvernal Primary School was graded 'good with outstanding features' in its most recent OFSTED inspection. This is fabulous news and the result of hard work from our children, staff and of course parents and carers. We are now looking ahead and planning for further improvement of the school. To that end we have been in discussion with Norton Hill, Somervale, Clutton and High Littleton Schools about working in closer partnership. On Tuesday 9th February the Governors of the school unanimously voted to become an academy and join formally with Norton Hill, Somervale, Clutton and High Littleton schools as part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. This action will bring a number of key benefits for Longvernal Primary School and more importantly our children. I have detailed some of these below:

- 1) Improved transition for year 6 pupils, most of whom attend one of the two local secondary schools.
- 2) Increased access to specialist facilities including those used for science, sport, music, technology and art.
- 3) Better teaching and learning across all the schools in the partnership with Longvernal benefiting from expertise in Science for example and Norton Hill and Somervale School benefiting from our expertise in the teaching of literacy.
- 4) Greater and more structured support across primary schools in the partnership so that true collaboration really happens.
- 5) Greater economies of scale to allow capital investment in buildings and facilities at Longvernal School.
- 6) Support with procurement of service such as school meals, site management, health and safety, finance, etc. The Local Authority is no longer able to provide some of these services.
- 7) Opportunities for more regular staff development and therefore improved skills of teachers and non-teaching colleagues.
- 8) Access to equipment, e.g. Lighting equipment for shows, use of minibuses, etc.

Nationally, many primary schools are working in this way with local secondary schools and in terms of the day-to-day feel of our school, there will be very little difference to that which is experienced currently. The structure of the leadership team here would also remain the same with myself as Headteacher making the day-to-day decisions and contributing to the strategic leadership with our Governing Body. The unique work and distinct features of Longvernal School will be preserved and hopefully enhanced.

Myself and the Governors hope that you will see the many benefits to this course of action and will wish to support it.

We are building a community where learners have no ceilings to their aspirations and successes. Everyone is respected and loved in their own right.



We firmly believe that becoming an academy and working closely with the two local secondary schools and some excellent primary schools, will allow us to continue offering the best possible experiences for your children.

Although the decision in principle to convert to academy status and join Norton Hill, Somervale, Clutton and High Littleton has already been taken by Governors, we very much value your views and thoughts. We wish to reassure parents and carers and therefore have arranged a parent consultation meeting for Monday 7th March at 6.30pm in the school hall. Additionally, if you would like any questions answered please put them in writing to the school office by Friday 4th March 2016. I will also be available in the school hall tomorrow morning at 8.30 am should you want to catch me and have a chat about the process.

Yours sincerely

Kerrie Courtier
Headteacher

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