

It's Official – St Mary's and Downs Way will amalgamate!!!

We are delighted to be able to share with you the following news:

On 14 March 2017, the Leader of Surrey County Council determined the statutory notice to close Downs Way School from 1 September 2018. The decision-making process is documented at: <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=182&MId=5266&Ver=4>

On the same day, the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the SDBE determined the associated statutory notice to:

- *Alter the lower age limit of St. Mary's C of E Junior School, in order that the age range broadens from 7-11 to 4-11, effective from 1 September 2018; and*
- *Enlarge the KS2 provision at this Primary School from 3FE to 4FE, effective from 1 September 2018.*

The decision-making process is documented in the minutes of the Governing Body Meeting, available from the school office on request.

The consequence of the above is that the two aforementioned schools will effectively be amalgamated from 1 September 2018.

The governors of both schools are very grateful to everyone who participated in the consultation – and helped us reach this position – which we firmly believe is the best step for both schools.

Whilst it is an exciting step forwards we must acknowledge that for both schools the coming year will represent an 'end of an era' and we will be finding ways to mark this, and celebrate the contribution that Downs Way school has made in Oxted for so many years.

We remain mindful of the fact that, even from those of you who expressed support, there are those who have concerns about the impact these changes will have – and are committed to keeping lines of communication open and active in the hope that some of these concerns can be allayed. So watch out for news on the website and opportunities to engage with what will be happening next!

We want to work together to build the best possible future for our school – whilst strengthening our links across the community – and hope we can continue to rely on your support in the exciting times ahead.