



St. Mary's C of E (Aided) Junior School
Silkham Road
Oxted
Surrey
RH8 0NP



Downs Way School
Downs Way
Oxted
Surrey
RH8 0NZ

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to update you on the proposed amalgamation of Downs Way School with St. Mary's C of E Junior School, from 1 September 2018. There has been a slight technical hitch at the Local Authority end, which will in no way affect the amalgamation in practice.

Basically, a critical technical detail was missing within the statutory notices that were published in respect of the proposal. The consequence of this omission is that the decisions taken in respect of the amalgamation on 14 March 2017 are effectively voided and, as a result, the statutory process of consultation and decision-making needs to be rerun. As the core of our school community, we are writing to inform all families with children at the school that the informal stage of this consultation will commence on Monday 24 July 2017 and will run for 6 weeks, until Monday 4 September 2017. Full details of the consultation will be accessible on both the school's websites, as well as Surrey County Council's consultation hub – www.surreysays.co.uk

The local authority would like us to make clear to everyone who responded to the original consultation that their feedback will be considered with equal weight alongside any new responses that are received during this new round – so if you have said everything you want to say there is no need to respond again. That said, even if you have already submitted a response to the previous consultation, but would like to have additional input, do feel free to make a further submission. Full details on how to do so will be available in the online documentation.

As public meetings were held in the original round of consultation (in November/December 2016), it is not felt necessary to hold further events of this nature. If, however, you would like to discuss any points in more detail, the lead for this piece of work is Surrey County Council's School Commissioning Officer for South East Surrey, who is happy to field any questions:

Oliver Gill
Tel: 020 8541 7383
Email: oliver.gill@surreycc.gov.uk

Finally, please be assured that the leadership teams of both Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School, together with Surrey County Council and the Diocese of Southwark, remain committed to the amalgamation of our schools for 1 September 2018, in order that our vision for the sustained improvement of educational provision in the area can be delivered in line with the originally anticipated timeline.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Lewis'.

Sarah Lewis
Head Teacher