



# Borden Church of England Primary School

Part of the UNITAS Collaboration

School Lane Borden Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JS

19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents/Carer

As you know, our school is part of the Unitas Collaboration, working in partnership with Borden C of E School, Bredgar C of E School, Minterne Junior School and The Oaks Infant School. This letter is to inform you about the decision by the Governors of our school to become an Academy within a Church Multi-Academy Trust. The four schools within the Unitas Collaboration will compose the Church MAT. It is our intention to become a MAT by July 2017.

The Governors believe this change will enable us to continue to improve the opportunities we provide for your children and support the school in its future development. Academy status will change some things behind the scenes but otherwise you and your children will see little difference when we make this change. We will continue to work with other local primary and secondary schools. We will have a little more freedom to decide how all our funding should be spent.

We will not change the school uniforms, term dates, the school's admissions policy or the ethos of the school. The advantages of working as part of a MAT are we can continue to function as a school serving our community but also be able to pay a full part both as a contributor and a receiver of support and challenge from colleagues within the MAT. The name of the MAT is a work in progress, as we want to secure a name that is unique and appropriate to us.

We hope that you will continue to give the Governors and the staff your support in driving our school forward. We will be holding a formal consultation from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for four weeks, until 3 February 2017. There will be a consultation meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for all interested parties, at Minterne School from 7.00 to 8.00 pm. We will provide more information about the timeline and will respond to any questions or concerns that you may have at the meeting in January.

Yours sincerely

Helen Stewart  
Chair of Governors



Mr David Whitehead  
Mrs Sheila Dunk

*Executive Headteacher*  
*Head of School*

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