



# Borden Church of England Primary School

Part of the UNITAS Collaboration

School Lane Borden Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JS

Dear Staff Member

The Governing Body of Borden Church of England Primary School has been carefully considering the school's future plans in a fast changing and increasingly challenging educational landscape. As the Governing Body, our priority is to enable the school to continue to provide an excellent education for our children while protecting the school's role at the heart of our community, as well as retaining the school's unique qualities and strengths.

As you are aware, we have been part of the Unitas Collaboration for some time, and the collaboration of Borden C of E Primary School, Bredgar C of E Primary School, Minterne Junior School and The Oaks Infant School has enabled the schools to provide opportunities to allow each school to move productively forward.

Over the past year, the Governing Bodies of Unitas have been working closely together to explore how partnership could provide even greater advantages for our schools. As part of this, we have considered the current Government policy that schools are encouraged to become academies. The Governing Body believes that the best way forward is to establish a local Church Multi-Academy Trust and for our school to convert to an Academy. The proposed Academy Trust will have four founding member schools, namely those currently within the Unitas Collaboration.

We wanted the staff to know of our proposal in advance of the formal consultation for all interested parties which will take place from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for four weeks until 3 February 2017.

The Executive Head, David Whitehead will be meeting with staff from each school and our consultant Adrian Smith will also hold a surgery for staff before the end of the consultation period.

Parents/Carers will be given the opportunity to attend a separate consultation meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Minterne School, between 7.00 and 8.00 pm.

We want to reassure staff members that the majority of you will see no change. During the formal consultation we will provide more information and the timeline. We will also respond to any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

Helen Stewart

Chair of Governors



Mr David Whitehead  
Mrs Sheila Dunk

*Executive Headteacher*  
*Head of School*

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