

GROVELANDS C P SCHOOL



**Dunbar Drive
Hailsham
East Sussex
BN27 3UW**

*Executive Headteacher : Mr Jon
Goulding B.A. (Hons)*



13th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I had hoped to start this letter with a warm welcome back to Grovelands after a most unusual Christmas, but sadly, it must be a welcome back to home learning again for most.

As you will know, since last April Grovelands has been working in an interim partnership with Hellingly Primary School. Mr. Goulding has been Acting Executive Headteacher of both schools while Mrs. McKay has been Acting Head of School at Hellingly and Miss Swaine has been Acting Head of School at Grovelands. The interim partnership was extended to the end of August 2021 to allow time to assess options for the future.

A working group of governors from Grovelands and Hellingly advised by Mr. Goulding and the Local Authority was set up to consider options for Hellingly's permanent leadership. The two options considered most closely were either to continue as standalone schools or to make the current arrangement permanent by entering into a Federation with the two schools.

For Hellingly the current partnership has provided stability, enabling their teachers and staff to develop and implement much needed improvements to their curriculum, even in the extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19. Despite these circumstances the two schools have been able to work together, sharing experience and expertise, and this has been valuable to both schools. Within Grovelands this partnership has enabled us to strengthen our middle-tier leadership further, in turn providing additional support to teaching staff.

The Working Group concluded that a formal Federation between Grovelands and Hellingly Schools offered the best opportunity to continue to improve and develop, with certainty and stability of leadership. We believe that the character of both schools can be sustained within a Federation, whilst benefiting from being part of a larger whole. The Governing Boards of both schools have subsequently agreed to start consultation on this proposal.

This consultation is a statutory process. Both Boards will publish a paper explaining the proposal in more detail and why it is being made. There will be meetings, which will have to be online, at which the school community may comment on and ask questions about the proposal. There will also be formal consultation with staff and their unions. You will be invited to submit written comments on the proposal.

The statutory consultation period must last a minimum of six school weeks. We propose therefore to start this period before the end of January and to complete it during Term 4, so that both Boards can consider the responses and make a decision by the end of Term 4. Both Boards must separately agree the proposal for it to be approved.

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This is just a very brief outline of our thinking, so that you are informed and can begin thinking about what you would like the future of the school to be. There will be more detail shortly in the consultation paper. We look forward to discussing this very important proposal for Grovelands School with you.

Kind Regards

Paul Young
Chair of Governors
Grovelands Community Primary School