



Children First Trust Summer Newsletter

July 2024

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Trust Updates

As you know, Eldon joined our Trust in April, and I am pleased that, on a variety of levels, they are already working effectively with us and our school improvement groups. Honilands Primary has now applied to the DfE to join us, and we are hoping to get a date for that conversion in the autumn term. The growth of the Trust is important because, as a larger group, we can do more for our children and communities, working together to share the expertise and resources that we have.

Dominic Smart joined us when Eldon Primary converted, and his role has been to work as an Executive Headteacher supporting all our schools. I am pleased to say that he will now take on the role of Deputy CEO for the Trust, he will continue to focus on work with school leaders but will also work with me on wider Trust work. Lisa Wise (HT at Wilbury) will be joining the Central Team for 2 days per week to support the work of schools in continuing to raise outcomes in core subjects.



School Updates

We have two Headteachers to say goodbye to this year. Stewart Humphries is leaving his role as Headteacher of Brettenham at the end of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his incredible 25 years of commitment to Brettenham. I know that the staff and whole school community are going to miss him. We all wish him well in his next chapter. Antoinette Goldwater, Headteacher at Fleecefield, has agreed to take on the role of Executive Headteacher across both Fleecefield and Brettenham next year, supported by the leaders in both schools. Anna Trott is retiring from Raynham, also at the end of term. Anna has been at Raynham for 30 years; her knowledge of the school is going to be hard to replace. Nicky Hammond, who is taking over as Headteacher at Raynham has been fortunate to work with Anna this year, so she has been able to download at least some of that knowledge. We all wish Anna a happy relaxing retirement.

It is really pleasing that we have been able to recruit leadership roles, including headships, from within the Trust. Giving career opportunities is a key thing that we want to achieve at all levels.

Outcomes

Early indications are that we have a strong data set across our schools, from Early Years to KS2. All schools have really shown where their planned focus and energy has had an impact. I would like to thank you all for your hard work on this.



Our People Strategy

We are always looking at ways to ensure that we do all we can to recognise the hard work and commitment of all our staff. I am sure your Headteachers have told you that we will be trialing a Gifted Day next year. This is an opportunity for all staff, in agreement with leaders, to take a day of paid leave in term time. We have also been working on our CPD offer, as we know that high quality CPD is an excellent way to retain staff and enable them to develop their careers. In September I will be coming to schools to talk about this.