



The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools

28 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that everyone is now settled into the routine of the new school year and that the cold mornings this week have not been too much of a shock to the system. I am writing to give you some news about Swallowtail Federation.

As governors we have for some time been clear that we need to be part of a larger group for long term sustainability and to gain further benefits in the same way that we did when we formed Swallowtail and came together as a group of three schools. Having talked to various schools over the last couple of years we are currently in discussions with Blue Sky Federation and whilst it is still very much the case that nothing is finally decided the governors feel very positive about the idea of going into a formal partnership with Blue Sky.

Blue Sky Federation have many similarities to Swallowtail Federation, they have the same values, they are firmly committed to village schools, preschools, to forest schools and to achieving the best possible outcomes for all children whatever their needs. When we talk with them there are lots of synergies and there is a positive energy and enthusiasm. The governors have also spent a lot of time sharing and talking through details about each Federation and about a possible way forward so it's not just about feelings, we have done a lot of due diligence work and asked lots of questions.

We are now at the stage where the governors will consider a recommendation that Swallowtail Federation enters into a formal partnership with Blue Sky Federation with effect from 1st Jan 2019. This means we stay as two federations each with their own governing board but we work more closely together and have one Executive Head across the five schools. There will be a process to appoint this one Executive Head. An executive head of a bigger group of schools is quite a different role as a strategic leader working closely within a leadership structure and it is important that this executive head has the right skills to lead a group of five small schools all with unique features. The process will focus on ensuring we appoint someone with those skills and who will further develop what we know and love as the Swallowtail family of schools.

I would like to stress that until ratified by the Governing Board nothing is finalised and once we are in partnership, Swallowtail still has its own governing board, this will only change if and when we become one federation of schools. Right now we feel Blue Sky is a good fit but there are still some details to be worked through and nothing is yet finalised.

We understand that this time of change can be unsettling and creates questions so do please contact me if you would like any more information or have any questions. We will contact you again with more information as soon as we are ready to move forward.

Sheila Watts (Mrs) - Chair of Governors

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