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Dear Parents and Carers,

The governors of Brockton C of E Primary School and Church Preen Primary School are delighted to announce that, on 1st April, we officially federated and will now be known as The Edge Schools' Federation.

This decision followed an extensive consultation with the community where the proposal to federate was overwhelmingly supported. We now look forward to developing this strong and growing partnership.

Last Thursday evening was our first Federation Governing Body meeting. It has been constituted as follows:

Chair: Amber Byrne
Vice Chair: Steve Hall
Staff Governor: Elle Evans
Parent Governors: Chris Jesshope and Simon Gray
Local Authority Governor: Diane Crowe
Foundation Governors: Richard Rhodes and Rachel Coward
Co-opted Governors: Peter Cox, Pete Ball, Steve Hall, Amber Byrne and Ben Driscoll
Associate Members: Sarah Downes

Further details regarding roles of the governing body, sub-committee structures, minutes from meetings etc will be published on the new website as soon as it is up and running and we will let you know when this has happened. Opportunities will also be made available to parents who wish to discuss our plans in more detail but of course, you are welcome to arrange visits to either of the schools to see for yourselves the quality of provision on both sites.

Please do get in touch if you have further questions and look out for a growing range of communications via our new Federation website, newsletter and Twitter account. Your children will also be fully involved in our plans as we work on a wide range of joint teaching and learning activities as well as extra-curricular activities.

As a governing body, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the very helpful and extremely positive way in which you have engaged with us in bringing about this exciting new partnership for excellence in education for the benefit of present and future generations of children. Without your support, this development could not happen.

In leading the Federation governing body, I have been a parent at Brockton Primary School for 5 years and the Chair of Governors for 4 years. I am an ex-primary school deputy headteacher and I am currently a stay at home mum. I have 2 children attending Brockton - one in year 4 and one in year 2 - and I am really excited about, and committed to, my new role as Chair of the Federation and looking ahead to ensuring a long and happy future for our schools.



With this in mind, I would like to inform you of more exciting news putting the Edge Schools' Federation at the forefront of safe, imaginative, stimulating and sustainable environments for our children.

Whilst the formal federation of Church Preen and Brockton is barely a month old, we have had a single Headteacher for almost 2 years. Over that time Dave Tinker has brought stability and consistency to both schools but as importantly, has enabled the development of a strong and talented staff.

Best practice, child development and robust management are cornerstones to successful educational outcomes and, where these are demonstrated with routine excellence, it is easy to draw attention from other parties interested to see this working in practice. In this regard, I am proud to inform you that we have been asked by the Local Authority to provide support to Wistanstow CE Primary School from September 2018. Although Wistanstow will not be joining our Federation, we will be sharing one third of Dave Tinker's time with them.

Before going any further, I would like to state that the governing body is absolutely confident in the day to day management of both Federation schools and would like to reassure you of our determination to deliver continued excellence for ALL our children. The Chair, Headteacher and governing body have considered carefully the proposition and it is clear that the opportunities far outweigh any perceived negatives.

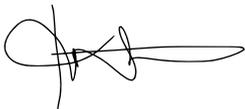
Sharing best practice aside, the current difficult financial climate facing schools has led all school governors county and countrywide to have to consider various ways of relieving the stress on finances whilst ensuring that there is no impact on the quality of learning. As two rural schools in Shropshire, the Federation is not alone in facing difficult choices. However, the concept of the Federation was always to take our future into our own hands.

The Headteacher, Chair and governors are therefore unanimous in agreement that the extension of our reach to Wistanstow is the right thing to do at this time including the sharing of good practice across a greater number of staff and establishments, increased opportunities for joint projects (at all levels) and reduced costs in some areas of current expenditure. Importantly, we are confident this exciting venture will provide the opportunity of an enriched learning experience for children in all three schools.

Governors will continuously and vigorously monitor and review the arrangement to ensure that there will be no compromise of standards within our Federation.

If you would like to discuss this issue further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Amber Byrne

