



# *The New East Worthing Primary School*

## **November 2023 NEWSLETTER 1**

### **Communication**

I have created our Newsletter to help keep the community up to date. These will be regular, but also as and when we have some news about the new East Worthing Primary School. As I promised in my introductory letter, I will endeavour to communicate with parents, carers and school staff as regularly as possible, keeping you informed about the progress being made towards opening our new school in September 2024. Some communication will be from me, the head designate, and some communication will come via the temporary Governing Body.

Over the next weeks and months, staff will work with the pupils so that they are ready and confident about the transition to the primary school. Also, to support the changes, I will be working across both school sites, working alongside Mr Himsworth and our joint senior leadership teams, supporting and getting to know our wonderful children. I will also visit Springfield regularly to meet the pupils and parents/carers.

### **Staff**

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to meet and work with staff from both schools. It is reassuring that staff from both schools are genuinely very excited about working together. Some of the staff got together last Wednesday for the first time. They are very keen to start working as a team so that the new school can offer its pupils the very best of each school, both academically and socially. Both schools have a strong inclusive ethos, where individuals are valued. This will not change and it will be at the centre of all our decision making.

We are planning many sessions where the staff can work together, sharing good practice and provision, so that we can confidently move forwards as a team. This is important for all our pupils as they will continue to be at the heart of all our planning as we become a new primary school. Myself and both teams are absolutely committed to ensuring that as we bring the two schools together we retain a broad, rich curriculum which meets the needs of all the learners.

Both schools have a strong aspirational ethos and we will be collaborating regularly, adapting our provision and practice to reflect the new school's primary phases. One of the first things we will be doing together is shaping our vision and values. We will start this piece of work as a joint venture this term so that we can share and consult with the wider community in the new year. Both communities feel very proud of their schools. It is important that this continues in the new school.

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## **School Name**

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a suggestion. There are some very creative name proposals for our new primary school!

The name change has come about because Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant are closing and a new combined primary school is opening. Although the new school will be on the current Chesswood Road site, it will not be the existing school as we know it – it will be an all through primary school with pupils aged 4 to 11 on one site.

A new name recognises this and will support all pupils and the wider community to recognise that this is a 'new' school. It will also give the community an exciting opportunity to be part of helping to establish an equal coming together of both school communities – pupils, parents and staff.

## **Uniform**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our first uniform questionnaire. There will be further consultations about the uniform to follow. The uniform (with the new name and logo) will be chosen so that it is appropriate for both the very youngest pupils (4 years old) and the very oldest (11 years old). A new or adapted uniform will be needed so that it represents the new primary school. The transition will be slow, and any changes, will take account of cost. We are investigating funding for 1 free jumper per child at the beginning of the amalgamation. Whilst uniform can be seen as important (a bit like team colours), it should never be a financial burden to any family. Therefore, there will be a gradual change over. We have received some constructive suggestions such as sew on badges which we will, of course, explore as one solution.

## **Building work**

West Sussex County Council are leading on the plans for the additional classrooms and adaptations that will be necessary to provide for the whole primary age range. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to provide a time line of when building can begin. They are however, working closely with myself and the temporary Governing Body as everyone is committed to getting this right. Hopefully we will have more news to share over the coming month.

## **Parental Engagement**

Alongside questionnaires, there will be other face to face opportunities for parents/carers to engage from both schools. At present, we are agreeing dates for these to start at the end of this term. There will be opportunities for you to meet the SLT and governors from both schools and participate in sharing your views. I am also going to start a parent/carer engagement group. There will be further information to follow over the next few weeks. Please do approach staff on the gates at the schools if you have any questions or concerns.



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Head Teacher Designate