



HOMEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL & SSC

Aiming high together

Diane South

Executive Head Teacher

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Please see below some information from Andy Parkin, the Chair of Governor's (TGM)

Dear school community,

As mentioned in my section in the February newsletter, the temporary Governing Body want to keep all stakeholders of Homefield Primary School and SSC, updated on progress to date.

Di South's newsletters in March advised that the new School logo and new uniform have been agreed and that discussions are now underway with the preferred supplier. Mock-ups of the uniform are being obtained for parent/carers to view. Governors would like to thank those parents who were part of the Uniform working party. The new uniform relies less on branded items than the current uniform styles, meaning lower costs for parents over a child's time at Homefield.

The temporary Governing Body would like to thank Di and the staff of Homefield School for their work in defining a Vision and Value statement for Homefield Primary, which the Governing Body was pleased to adopt at our March meeting. A website for the new school is near completion.

Staff meetings were fixed for the first week of this term to outline staffing arrangements from September 2024 and commence a formal consultation, as contracts will switch to Homefield from September 2024. Our first appointment has been made by Di South and the Governors, of the post of School Business Manager for Homefield Primary School. We warmly welcome Mrs Gathern. This will enable detailed work to commence on the new school budget and resource planning.

Work is ongoing on policies for the new school and the procedures needed to establish the new permanent Governing Body for Homefield Primary School. This will operate from the latter part of the Autumn term. Elections to form the new Governing Body will begin to take place in September 2024.

One area of concern for the temporary governing body is the pace of the building work due to take place on the Chesswood Road site. The Senior Leadership team and Governors feel it is essential to safeguard the building design, the best features of existing school operations and indeed look to improve on these. Some of you may recall in the original amalgamation report for Lyndhurst Infant School and Chesswood Junior school, it indicated that the building work would be completed for September 2024. With hindsight, this was an overly ambitious timescale given that Di South was not appointed until November 2023, and as with all schools, the Head Teacher's input into design options is very desirable. It is evident that a more realistic date for completion will be September 2025, enabling the new school to come together on one site. Even this later timescale may prove to be problematic. The initial designs submitted for school consideration were felt to be unsatisfactory and the governing body and Senior Leadership team have submitted further ideas for improvement to these designs to County staff. A meeting was held on Tuesday 16th April to debate these proposals. Whilst the Governing body fully

recognise the significant difficulties for staff operating from 2 sites, it is vital to get the best design for both children and staff, with the least disruption during the build process. We do hope parents and carers will understand this measured approach, which although it might take longer to complete, will hopefully create the best environment for learning moving forwards.

With regards,

Andy Parkin