



Stoke by Nayland Governors' Newsletter



SUMMER TERM 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term it has been! On the administrative level there have been big changes at our school- most notably our conversion to an academy on 1 June when we joined the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan MAT (Multi Academy Trust.) Our fearless Vice- Chair, Vivienne Klimowicz, has stepped into the position of Chair, and we weathered yet another inspection- the church school inspection (SIAMS). In this newsletter we'll demystify what joining the trust means, what the SIAMS inspection can tell us about our school and take the time to say thank you to all of our staff who have worked so hard during this transformative academic year.

Joining the MAT– what does it really mean for our children?

For most parents the only tangible change you've noticed since we joined the MAT is that we now have to make our cheques payable to the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich MAT. While on the surface not much has changed, the way our school is managed has shifted. By joining the MAT we tap into a network of resources provided by our partner schools and the MAT itself. Collaboration amongst the schools benefits the headteacher and staff which ultimately translates into a better academic experience for our children.

The MAT at a Glance:



- On 1 June, the MAT welcomed it's 9th, 10th and 11th schools. Stoke by Nayland is the 11th school to join the Trust.
- Benefits include financial savings through the economies of scale, enhanced opportunities for staff development and a wider curriculum for our children.
- In addition to the support we'll receive from the MAT we will continue to maintain long established links with schools such as Thomas Gainsborough School and Samuel Ward Academy.
- The MAT is ultimately responsible for the effectiveness of the school.
- As an individual academy the headteacher and governors still have the freedom to decide how the school is run. This includes making decisions regarding budgets, staff pay and curriculum.
- The MAT lists its two main objectives on its website:
 1. to ensure that each of its schools reaches an Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding' and remains outstanding
 2. to ensure that each school in the Trust achieves a SIAMS judgement of 'Outstanding'

Joining the MAT – a teacher’s perspective

Saplings teacher, Mrs Hill, has thoroughly enjoyed her experience of joining the MAT. Even before we officially joined she met with other teachers in the MAT to network and share ideas. The collaboration is a two-way process in which Mrs Hill has had the opportunity to share her own best practices with colleagues at other schools. Speaking to a governor, she explained that she feels as though she is establishing strong working relationships. Teachers visit schools within the MAT where they are encouraged to look for great ideas to bring back to their own classrooms. In education each classroom can sometimes feel like its own island so the opportunity to see how other teachers plan, instruct and assess is invaluable. Next Autumn Mrs Hill will be meeting with other MAT schools to discuss maths planning, moderating baseline assessments and moving to the same data tracking system so they can easily compare data.

Our recent SIAMS inspection

Inspections – they’re like buses. In addition to the Ofsted, all church schools must also be inspected by the Church of England. These inspections are called SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and evaluate whether the school, through its Christian character, meets the developmental and academic needs of its students. Schools are awarded a grade ranging from Outstanding to Inadequate and parents can view the full report from the paper copy sent home, or online. We are delighted to say that we have been graded as ‘good’, and the report acknowledges the improvements we have made since Ofsted as well as many other very positive aspects of our school.



Thank you Peter!



The governors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our long serving Chairman, Peter Busfield, who has recently stepped down. Peter joined the governors in 2004 very soon after his two children started; within a year he became the Vice Chair. His skills marked him out to be the Chair in 2007. He grasped what was needed and has seen us through three Ofsteds and has been a very positive support to the school. Despite his very busy work schedule he still found time most weeks to come into the school. He felt that as we reached a new stage in the life of the school, joining the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, it was the right time to step down. We will miss him but wish him and his family well.

And another thank you...

We would also like to say thank you to all the staff who have put in many extra hours ensuring a smooth transition into the MAT. Mrs Le Grice has worked very hard overseeing the conversion while Mrs Batterham and Mrs Drew have been meticulous in making the necessary changes at the administrative level. Finally, thank you to all of our teachers, teaching assistants and support staff who have worked so hard this year. We wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday.