



Meadowfield School
Swanstreet Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent ME10 4NL

T: 01795 477788
E: office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

1st February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Following an extraordinary meeting of the Full Governing Body on Friday 28 January, we are pleased to share with you all the forward-thinking decisions recently taken by the Governing Body of Meadowfield School.

The decisions came about following:

- a review of our current capacity, priorities and future ambitions
- discussion with our external Educational Consultant
- receiving advice from an external Human Resources consultant
- advice from KsENT and The Co-operative School Network
- research of documentation by the Department for Education and the National College for Leadership of Schools
- a study of leadership structures of similar schools, including those within our special educational needs trust (KsENT)

It was agreed that a change to the Leadership Structure of Meadowfield School is essential for various reasons:

- our school (*including Honey Bees Observation and Assessment Nursery, Meadowfield School, Meadowfield 6th Form, ASCEND Specialist College and our Specialist Teaching and Learning Service - STLS*) has outgrown its current leadership structure
- a revised structure would enable us to expand further so that we can continue to meet the needs for our current pupils and better meet the need for pupil places in the future (*our pupil numbers have increased by 70% in the past 10 years and requests to take more pupils is continuous*)
- our future expansion may include satellite classes and/or a satellite school therefore an expanded leadership structure is needed to drive these initiatives and others, and will enable the school leadership to run your school.
- to better enable us to further develop partnerships with other schools, agencies and our community
- to better enable us to share advice, support and expertise with other schools in KsENT and beyond
- to keep Meadowfield School at the centre of SEN in our community, securing better outcomes for our children.

Governors have made two decisions.

The first is the addition of Executive Principal to our school structure, and we are very pleased that Governors have appointed Jill Palmer to this role. As Executive Principal she will be responsible for the strategic oversight and development of our entire organisation including the development of satellites, STLS, ASCEND Specialist College, further presence in the community and partnership growth. A role that she has grown into over the past 10 years.

Continued on page 2



Page 2

The second decision is to recruit a new Principal to run Meadowfield School and the internal advert for this position will be live as from Monday 31 January. The advert will close on 7 February, interviews will take place on February 8 February and if possible, the position will commence on 19 April 2022. This position will be advertised internally to all staff and the interviews will take place by a panel which will include representatives from KsENT, the Governing Body and the Local Authority.

We hope that you share our excitement for not only where we are now as a school, but also for securing our future as a growing organisation. Our priority will always be to maintain the highest standards possible across all of our provisions so that we can provide our pupils with the very best.

We would like to assure you that at Meadowfield we are always looking at ways to improve and move forward and as a foundation school we will continue to work closely with KsENT and the Co-operative Schools Network.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'R Kane'.

Mrs R Kane
Chair of Governors