

19th May 2022

Miss Jill M. Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing today with exciting news.

You may have noticed that I have mentioned satellite classes in recent letters to you and I am very happy to update you with further details.

I am pleased to share that the outcome of the public consultation regarding the satellite classes was very positive, therefore Meadowfield's very first satellite classes will be opening at Sunny Bank Primary School located at Sunny Bank, Murston, Sittingbourne, ME10 3QN in September 2022. Sunny Bank is an academy school and is part of the Island Learning Trust.

The practice of special schools having satellite classes in neighbouring mainstream schools is a well-established and highly successful practice in Kent. Kent special schools who have satellite classes include:

- St. Nicholas School in Canterbury
- Foreland Field School in Ramsgate
- Wyverne School in Ashford
- Five Acre Wood School in Maidstone

We know that from the experience of these special schools, as well as research around inclusive practices, that there will be many benefits for our pupils who will receive their learning at Sunny Bank, including opportunities for:

- participation in a wider range of school and community groups
- socialisation
- learning from peers

In addition, there will be many benefits for Sunny Bank pupils including:

- better appreciation and understanding of individual differences
- learning to be more helpful and supportive toward people with learning difficulties
- preparation for adult life in a diverse society

We have been working closely with KCC and leaders at Sunny Bank and I can clarify that Meadowfield pupils will:

- be taught by Meadowfield staff
- be on the roll of Meadowfield School
- receive the same high-quality learning opportunities as our Swanstree site offers
- receive every aspect of their entitlement as according to their EHCP
- be safe and secure as is our main school site
- benefit from inclusive practice (for example, joining in with Sunny Bank pupils at lunch times, play times, assemblies, Forest School and lessons as appropriate)

Page 2

I can also assure you that the quality of provision, health and safety, safeguarding and first aid provision will be monitored by Meadowfield school leaders. Transport arrangements will be put into place for drop off/pick up at Sunny Bank and all of our work at Sunny Bank will be underpinned by the values of Meadowfield: teamwork, kindness, honesty, respect and understanding.

For those pupils who will begin attending the satellite classes in September, it is important to note that we soon will be establishing satellite classes at a local secondary school which will provide progression from Sunny Bank.

I will soon be working closely with Deputy and Assistant Principals to organise the class groups for our satellite classes who will be based at Sunny Bank and I wish to collaboratively work with parents and carers as well. It is most likely that our satellites will start with pupils in year groups 3 - 4 so very soon, we will be getting in touch about the groups for September. We will be in contact with parents and carers where we feel your child may suit a satellite class, but this will be subject to full discussion and engagement with you. Should you wish to contact me with a request for your child to be part of the Sunny Bank satellite classes, please feel free to get in touch. I would be happy to arrange visits to Sunny Bank for interested parents and carers so that you can see the location of our satellite classes first hand.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer
Executive Principal