



MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Chief Executive Officer: Louise Lee

26th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last two and a half years, Antingham and Southrepps Primary School and Nursery has undergone exciting changes since joining Synergy MAT. During this time, we have witnessed remarkable progress, such as the successful Ofsted rating and established a strong reputation within our local community and beyond. The School thrives on collaboration between staff, children and parents.

Yet, operating as a small rural school presents challenges, particularly in today's tough financial climate. That is why, as part of Synergy MAT, we are taking steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of Antingham and Southrepps.

With the full support of the local governing board, from September 2024 Antingham and Southrepps will become part of a three-school Federation, joining with two other Trust schools, Corpusty Primary and Foulsham Primary.

These two schools have been working in partnership for the past five years and have greatly benefited from the collaboration and efficiencies of this structure, while continuing to provide the best possible education for the children in their communities.

A three-school federation is an arrangement where three separate schools come together under a single governing body and leadership structure. Three (or more) school federations are not uncommon in Norfolk and have been shown to be the best method of maintaining and growing rural schools sustainably. Despite remaining as distinct entities, the schools will collaborate closely in various aspects, such as sharing resources, expertise and best practices. This collaboration will allow them to work more efficiently and effectively, while benefiting from each other's strengths.

Rest assured, each school in the federation will maintain its unique identity, ethos and curriculum tailored to the needs of its children and community.

Mr. Elcock, your current Headteacher here at Antingham and Southrepps, will become the Federation Headteacher. The existing partnership Deputy Headteacher at Foulsham and Corpusty, Mrs. Bourner, will be stepping up to become the Federation Deputy Headteacher for all three schools. Each school will then have its own Senior Teacher, who will be responsible in the absence of the Head or Deputy and be the first point of contact for parents/carers. The recruitment process for this role at Antingham is already underway and we will be providing further updates later this half-term.



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As a Trust, it is our intention to put in place a structure that builds upon the strengths of each of these schools, sharing their excellent practices, facilitating further opportunities for children and ensuring the best value for money in these challenging times. Mr. Elcock and the teams across the schools will work closely together throughout the summer term to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure, and Synergy will ensure extra support is in place during this time.

At Synergy MAT, we believe that we are 'Stronger Together' and we are confident that these plans will ensure a strong future for all three vitally important, local primary schools.

Kind regards,

Louise Lee
CEO

Richard Lord
Deputy CEO (Primary)

Sia Vare
Chair of Governors