

The Saints Federation



St Peter's C.E. (A) First School
Town Head
Alton
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST10 4AW



All Saints' C.E. (C) First School
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Staffordshire
ST14 5HT



St Augustine's CE (C) First School
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Draycott in the Clay
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 5BY

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

ON TRACK FOR SUAT The Federation Governing Body has been very active during 2017 in discussing and determining the way ahead towards becoming an Academy. A number of existing Multi-Academy Trusts were researched along with the local Uttoxeter Learning Trust and representatives of the MATs met with governors when they were quizzed on what they could offer our Federation schools. After lengthy discussions in many meetings, the decision was made to apply to join the Staffordshire University Academy Trust (SUAT), a well established organisation of currently eight schools across Staffordshire. Following a six week period of consultation, the Department for Education has now issued an Academy Order for each of our schools clearing the way to join SUAT in April 2018. Staff and governors have already been invited to attend meetings with other members of SUAT and we are confident the transition from Local Authority to MAT will be a smooth one. As part of the Uttoxeter pyramid of schools, our relationship with neighbouring and feeder schools remains unaltered and we will continue to participate fully in local initiatives and developments within the pyramid.

NURSERIES AT ALL THREE SCHOOLS All three of our Federation schools now offer Nursery provision. The Local Authority has ceased to maintain Nursery classes so the responsibility has been passed on to governing bodies. We have been fortunate to be able to draw on the experience of St Peter's, Alton, which has been successfully running a governor-led nursery for a number of years. All three nurseries are proving popular with families and numbers are increasing. From next January, All Saints will be offering full day nursery provision from Monday to Wednesday and mornings only on Thursday and Friday. St Augustine's currently offers mornings only and St Peter's offer a full provision throughout the week. If you know of families who may be interested in joining one of our nurseries, please encourage them to contact the schools.

St Peter's, Alton and All Saints, Denstone used money from their Sports Premium to treat the children to a day of dance celebrating the festival of Diwali. St Augustine's PTA funded their Diwali day. The lady from Wise Moves Dance Company, was a brilliant dancer who inspired and motivated the children. She was blown away by the excellent behaviour and the talent of all the children from our three schools. What a credit they are

to us!



EVER THOUGHT OF BEING A GOVERNOR? Parents have an important voice on the Federation governing body, not least through their elected representatives. Currently, we have one parent governor from each school—Ian Briggs from St Peter's, Ben Cunningham from All Saints and Ryan Rukas from St Augustine's. Most of the other governors are known as Foundation governors, appointed by Lichfield Diocese to reflect the Christian ethos of our three schools. There is a vacancy which needs to be filled for one Foundation governor to bring us up to full complement. If this is something you would be interested in, contact Rev Brian Leathers at Alton, Rev Les Rees at Draycott or just get in touch with any of the schools for further information. The composition of our governing body will remain substantially the same when we join SUAT so it's an exciting time to become involved and be part of shaping the future for our three schools.

PTAs ARE AMAZING! At their meeting last week, governors heard about the fantastic work and support given to all three schools by their amazing Parent-Teacher Associations. Together, they have raised several thousand pounds which are used to subsidise coaches, buy new ICT equipment, provide outdoor equipment and facilities—and have a lot of fun at the same time. The pupils are indeed lucky to benefit from such enthusiasm and support. Thank you to everyone involved.

Year 3 and 4 pupils from all three schools came together at All Saints, to spend a day with a Roman Soldier!! He taught them how to make a formation with shields and how to throw a spear! He also talked to them about the different parts of a soldier's outfit and their weapons. It was a great day and the children were thoroughly engaged.



All the children from Year 1 and Year 2 in our Federation schools came together recently at St Augustine's for an exciting day revolving around their latest History topic. The children were amazed to be visited by the time travelling nobleman Sir William Petty from 1666. He had travelled through time to come and tell the children all about the Great Fire of London.

The children were intrigued by the way he dressed and the way he talked. He spoke about what London was like in 1666 and the origins of the Great Fire. The children were involved in a re-enactment of the Great Fire (without the fire!) to see how and why the fire spread. They explored the ways of fighting the fire with much dramatic involvement and lots of buckets!



On behalf of the staff and governors of the Saints' Federation, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2018!
Terry Davies, Chair of Governors