

# Langley Fitzurse

## Church of England Primary School



Middle Common, Kington Langley, Wiltshire SN15 5NN  
Head teacher: Mrs Karen Winterburn

10 November 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to be writing to you as the new Chair of Governors for the Langley Fitzurse Stanton St Quintin Federation. I'd like to introduce myself, and explain more about how the federation came about, and what it means for both schools.

I moved to Kington Langley 4 years ago from Kington St Michael. I've lived in the area with my wife for the last 8 years and we have a 2-year-old daughter. I am a physicist who works for the Ministry of Defence. In my spare time I enjoy teaching circus skills and have helped out with KSM church fete and the KL Scarecrow Festival. I also enjoy board games and am a member of the local board games club. I've wanted to support my local community since I moved here, and last year took the opportunity to become a governor at Langley Fitzurse.

Since joining, I have chaired the Leadership & Resources Committee at Langley Fitzurse, and when Mr. Hearn returned to Lacock, I was involved in the recruitment process for the new headteacher. It was made very clear to me by many parents at Langley that the previous models of soft collaboration with other schools had resulted in frequent changes in leadership, which many found frustrating. It was because of this that we explored alternative governance models for securing a headteacher, and also to provide a more permanent solution for Langley Fitzurse and any partner school.

Fortunately, Stanton St. Quintin were also looking to change. Stanton is a wonderful small village school with a great character, not unlike Langley Fitzurse. Due to a gradual reduction of pupil numbers, financial constraints meant that like Langley they were unable to continue with a full time headteacher.

In May this year we started the process of forming a hard federation between the two schools. Local Authority Maintained schools are overseen by a governing board of volunteers, and when two schools collaborate, the shared headteacher reports to both governing bodies. In a hard federation, the schools are joined more substantially and are run by a single governing body. This means the executive headteacher role is appointed by the federation, and is a permanent position. This process was assisted by the Local Authority and the Diocese.

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In June we started a public consultation, which set out the background, principles and benefits of a federation<sup>1</sup>. I encourage you to read this document if you haven't already. In summary, this arrangement allows us to collaborate more directly; sharing resources, contracts, conducting joint trips and activities, sharing best practice and ultimately improving the outcomes for children in both schools.

Finally, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, each school dissolved their respective governing boards as the Federation was formed, and the senior leadership team established. I had the great pleasure of being elected Chair of this joint board, and look forward to working with an excellent team of professionals from a wide range of backgrounds to sustain and improve both schools. The more I learn about Stanton and their team, the more excited I get for the possibilities for the future of both schools. Mrs Winterburn is an excellent leader, full of ideas and I am confident she and her team will deliver positive change for the future of both schools.

Mrs Winterburn has now become the Executive Headteacher for both schools, with Mr Osler becoming Head of School at Langley Fitzurse.

A tremendous amount of work, invisible to most, has laid the foundation which we can now build upon. I am extremely grateful to all the school staff, teachers and governors who put in the work to form this Federation.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation at this time. The current world situation is very challenging for all of us, and so it is great to be able to proceed with this step that will provide more certainty, stability and a bright future for our school children.

Kind Regards,

**Ed Shire**  
**The Langley Fitzurse Stanton St Quintin Federation**  
**Chair of Governors**

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<sup>1</sup> Consultation, The Governing Boards of Langley Fitzurse Church of England Primary school and Stanton St Quintin Primary school propose the creation of: The Langley Fitzurse Stanton St Quintin Federation. May 2020

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