



June 1st 2015

# Shaping the Future for Reigate Parish Church School

Dear children, parents, carers, staff and our community,

## Exploring the possibility of becoming a Primary School

In November 2014, Surrey County Council (SCC) approached the Governing Body of Reigate Parish, asking us to explore the feasibility of expanding our outstanding two form entry Infant school with 180 children, into a two form Primary school with 420 children. Over the last seven months there have been extensive investigations by Surrey staff into the school site and the wooded area currently outside our boundary, some of which would be used for a new building, outdoor learning area and play space. There have also been many meetings between SCC, Mrs Davis (Headteacher), Mrs Kennedy (Deputy Headteacher) and the Governors. It is Surrey's intention, subject to an Educational Consultation, a Planning Consultation, a Transport Survey etc., that Reigate Parish Primary School would be open for Year 3 children in September 2016. The school would then continue to grow year on year with September 2015's Year 2 children becoming Year 3 in 2016, and then that Year 3 class becoming Year 4 in 2017, etc. Based on its work so far, the Governing Body believes that the expansion represents a fantastic opportunity for the school and has taken the decision to move to the next stage. This important stage involves talking to you about the proposed expansion and asking for your views and opinions. This consultation period will take place during June and enables the Governing Body to take your views into account before it makes a final decision in July. You will find enclosed with this letter a formal consultation document which sets out the reasoning behind SCC choosing to select, and request permission to expand Reigate Parish Church School. We would encourage you to complete and return the Consultation Response Form before the deadline of June 29th.

## The Background

Reigate Parish School has always listened to its community. Twenty years ago, the school moved from the old Schoolhouse on the one-way system where it had been established in 1854 to its current site, in order to provide schooling for the increased number of local children needing a school place. We established our vision of children being at the heart of an inclusive school where our Christian faith and Christian values support life-long learning through challenge and excitement, and the school has continued to go from strength to strength. Indeed, feedback from the most recent Parents Questionnaire tells us that 100% of our parents strongly agree or agree that their child enjoys learning at this school. Some of you are already thinking about, and have requested that Reigate Parish becomes a primary school to continue this love of learning and minimise the upheaval most children (and their parents and carers) feel at the end of Year 2. As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body are in the very privileged position of being able to decide whether or not we continue to grow and provide much needed school spaces and an outstanding education and learning environment for our local junior children.



Blackborough Road • Reigate • Surrey • RH2 7DB

Tel: 01737 244476 • Fax: 01737 245950 • Email: [info@reigate-parish.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@reigate-parish.surrey.sch.uk)

## The Opportunity

In our discussions with SCC, we have been able to maximise the opportunity of increasing the additional space required for the number of children who would attend Reigate Parish Primary. As part of the new school, which will be totally funded by SCC, there would be nine new, state of the art classrooms, the field would be made into an all-weather pitch, there would be a more welcoming entrance, a larger hall, a dedicated dance studio and an increase in the number of small group rooms for the children. We are also exploring opportunities to share additional facilities locally.

The opportunities for children currently in Year 1, Reception and the new Reception children joining us in September 2015 are vast. As a small, inclusive, Christian Infant school, all the staff get to know your child exceptionally well: academically, emotionally, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. The joy they feel as every child's character is nurtured and developed over the three years is testament to the close work they undertake with parents in order to fulfil every child's potential. The leadership team is incredibly excited to have the opportunity to carry on teaching your child through to Year 6 and to continue the outstanding practices already embedded in the school.

Ofsted, with their Outstanding judgement in July 2013, said "attainment is outstanding....all pupils including vulnerable groups make good and often exceptional progress from their starting points...there is a strong sense of community...teaching and learning are outstanding...all leaders are dedicated and aspirational and have continued to improve the effectiveness of the school since the last inspection".

Mrs Davis and Mrs Kennedy both have extensive primary experience, and Mrs Kennedy has had experience of growing a primary school in Kew. The Governors are confident that with the full support of the Governing Body, the Diocese and Surrey County Council, the project would be led by two exceptional people, who are committed to its success.

## So, what next?

We are sure that you will have many questions and comments. We hope that this letter and the enclosed brochure will address most of them. However, on Tuesday 9th June, from 8pm – 9.30pm, there will be a consultation evening at the school which you are invited to attend. The evening will solely be a discussion about whether or not Reigate Parish should expand to become a Primary school and will be attended by the Head and Deputy Headteachers, the Governing Body, representatives from SCC including the Educational and Admission and Transport teams, and a member from the Board of Education at Southwark Diocese. It must be stressed that this meeting is not to discuss the design, the layout or the planning of the new school. There will be a Planning Consultation at a later date, should the Governing Body decide to go ahead with the expansion.

Communication during these planning phases and during the expansion itself would be key to the success of the expanded school. We strongly believe that our ethos, vision and the core values of our infant school would enable the primary school to serve the children in the same, outstanding way. Please email your thoughts and any initial questions to [shapingthefuture@reigate-parish.sch.gov.uk](mailto:shapingthefuture@reigate-parish.sch.gov.uk) ahead of the meeting.

We will look forward to hearing your ideas and discussing the proposal with you at the meeting on June 9th.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Deborah Arnold,  
Chair of Governors on behalf of  
the Board of Governors.



Mrs Frances Davis,  
Headteacher.



Mrs Sarah Kennedy,  
Deputy Headteacher.