



20 September 2023

Dear Parents,

Following the success of our collaboration and subsequent federation of Foston, Stillington and Terrington Primary Schools, and in order to further enhance the sustainability of our small schools, FST Primary Schools Federation Governors have agreed to a period of formal collaboration with Langton Primary School. Our federation have, for some time, had a strong working relationship with Langton and know the school well. Langton is a thriving school and its vision and values fit well with ours.

I am sure you will appreciate that the current economic climate is creating significant challenges for all schools, and small schools in particular, are facing difficult times. Federation / Collaboration is one way in which small schools, through sharing resources, enhancing leadership, and spreading costs can ensure their continuing viability whilst maintaining their individuality.

The collaboration will allow us to strengthen senior leadership across our federation by implementing a head of school structure, providing more visible and accessible leadership in all our schools. During the formal collaboration Mrs Moore will be Executive Headteacher over the four schools sharing her time between them. Throughout the Autumn Term, the senior leaders from across the schools will work together to develop an action plan for the formal collaboration, ready for commencement in January 2024.

FST and Langton will each retain our own Governing Body, with representatives from each Board working jointly to monitor and review the progress of the partnership, and lead on development within the collaboration.

We believe that through the collaboration, the existing benefits of our FST small schools working together will be strengthened, with the children of FST Federation benefitting from:

- Wider peer groups
- Better resources due to improved finances
- Affordability of additional staffing to support children
- Strong, inclusive Quality First Teaching and interventions led by a specialist team of SENCOs
- Varied sporting opportunities led by a dedicated sport coordinator.
- Improved curriculum opportunities, enhancements, and opportunities for educational visits
- Constantly developing, rich and effectively sequenced curriculum helping to ensure strong progress.

The children, and their learning experiences, will further benefit from the closer working of our staff teams:

- Increased experienced Senior Leader capacity, providing more visible and accessible leadership.
- Wider staff and leadership team to share ideas and best practice.

- Team teaching / planning opportunities
- Shared staff meetings led by staff who are 'experts' in their field.
- Wider Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for all staff
- Mentoring for new teachers and coaching opportunities for existing teachers
- Increased subject leadership capacity, enabling increased focus and development of expertise.

Governors firmly believe that this formal collaboration is in the best interests of pupils and staff at all four schools and for those attending in the future; further enhancing and sustaining our small schools in continuing to improve pupil experience and achievement.

As always, please do get in touch (via the school office) if you have any queries or would like to discuss the ongoing collaboration arrangements.

Kind regards,

Corinne Cross
Chair of Governors, FST Federation

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