



Dear Prospective Parents and Carers,

Thank you for considering one of our Academies for your child. The Heads are looking forward to meeting you at the Open Mornings and showing you around their schools.

Please browse our individual websites for more information and to give you a 'flavour' of each of our schools. However the best way to discover more is to come along to one or more of our Open Mornings.

During our Open Mornings you can find out about uniform and the school day, school dinners, transition into Reception Class and how to claim subsidised uniform and trips for children eligible for Pupil Premium. You will also be given a tour of the school to see the facilities, meet the staff, and see how the school operates on a daily basis.

The schools have all converted to Academy status within the last year, and the information below will give you an idea of how this has benefited them, how the Trust operates, and how we work together to constantly improve the learning opportunities for all of our children.

Acorn Multi Academy Trust consists of 5 Primary Schools and 3 Early Years Centres/Pre-schools attended by children living in East Devon, West Dorset and South Somerset. Loders Primary School will be joining us later this year and are already working closely with the Trust. All the Trust Academies work closely together to provide the highest standards of education and learning for your child.

The Heads of School meet regularly with me and our business manager, and we focus on monitoring the quality of teaching and ensuring that teaching across the schools is of the highest quality. The teachers also meet regularly to discuss different aspects of their work and compare the expectations for the children. The SENCOs meet regularly to ensure that we know the impact of additional support and the Early Years teachers are leading some very important training with pre-school providers to ensure transition to school is seamless.

All of the staff benefit from significant professional development and this is further developing their expertise as teachers. The benefit of this is that good practice is not only shared but is also followed up and developed further. We have a strong back office team for our schools so that the school office staff can focus on providing an efficient front of house service for parents. We have specialist premises, finance and personnel managers to support the Heads of School and enable them to focus on the children. Over the past few years the role of Head teacher has become increasingly bureaucratic and we are now able to support the Heads so that this does not take over the main purpose of their job and relieves them of some of the administration tasks.

Each school has its own Governing Body who report to the Trust Directors and ensure that the individuality of each school is maintained. The schools all have their own individual identity and ethos and the children are fully involved with their village or town communities.

As we come to the end of our first year as the Acorn Multi Academy Trust, I thought it would be useful to reflect on some of the progress that has been made. As parents, there should be very little difference on a daily basis and each school should have changed very little. However, behind the scenes, staff from all of the schools have been working very hard to develop the infrastructure of the Trust to ensure that the children and teaching and learning remain at the heart of the school. Several of the schools have had inspections and these have been very successful. Marshwood achieved a good Church inspection with outstanding Christian ethos and outstanding leadership and management. Membury, which has been supported by Acorn for the last year, achieved a good Ofsted inspection with outstanding behaviour and safety. All of the schools benefit from the experience of others, and feed this into their own practice as they continue to improve.

During this academic year we are keen to develop greater opportunities for children to take part in wider opportunities working with children from other schools.

- Inter school sports competitions as well as specialist coaching.
- Specialist music teaching leading to a recording of children performing some songs by a well-known musician, and developing a Trust band of musicians
- Maths enrichment for more able mathematicians from across all of the schools
- Writer's workshop for more able children from across all of the schools
- Building a wider range of specialist teachers offering specialist skills
- Forest School experiences for all children, as well as orienteering opportunities
- Opportunities for food technology using specialist facilities
- Extended opportunities for before and after school provision as well as improved pre-school provision

This gives you a flavour of the things we would like to do this year and I am sure there will be others. I am very proud of the way the Trust has been set up and established in such a short time. A lot of work has been achieved and I am sure the Trust will go from strength to strength and continue to improve outcomes for all of our children in all areas of school life.

Mrs Andrea Rice

Chief Executive and Executive Head

Acorn Multi Academy Trust