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Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Pioneer Federation Families,

Our Governing Body is very pleased to share the exciting news of our intended partnership working with Park Mead Primary School, Upper Dicker, from September 2020. The collaboration will initially be for the period of one year, during which we will be seeking feedback from the whole school community about the development and effectiveness of the partnership. If the year-long collaboration is successful, governors would hope to enter a more formal and permanent federation.

Do visit Park Mead website: <https://parkmeadprimary.eschools.co.uk/website>

Mr Procter, as Executive Headteacher, will be working across the 4 schools from September, spending a quarter of his time in each school. Miss Hare will continue as Head of School of St Mary's. There will now be a single Head of School at East Hoathly and Chiddingly, rather than the dual Head of School role that existed previously. Miss Lewis will be Head of School of East Hoathly and Mrs Vile has been appointed to be Head of School of Chiddingly.

Other staffing arrangements for next year are explained in a separate letter released today.

Chiddingly, East Hoathly and St Mary's have enjoyed a successful Federation over the last few years and have also collaborated with schools locally and nationally. The advantages have included: staff retention, due to more opportunities for professional development, enhanced curriculum experiences and very good recent Ofsted inspections across all 3 schools in the last 2 years.

Park Mead Governors share Pioneer's vision and values, and this is why governors have chosen this partnership for our schools. We will continue to share and develop the strengths of all the schools to increase future school improvement. Park Mead school is like our schools, graded by Ofsted Inspection as a 'Good' school.

As you will know, collaboration of small schools is becoming essential to enable us to support one another in school improvement and begin to look at financial savings in order to remain sustainable in coming years.

The Governing Body and Pioneer staff team are very much looking forward to working with Park Mead and feel sure that parents will recognise and welcome the benefits to our children. We intend to keep parents well informed with everything we are planning and record progress in newsletters and on the website. There is much expertise, energy and enthusiasm across the four schools and we are really looking forward to sharing it.

Please contact Mr Procter or email me, if you have any further questions about the year's partnership.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alan Brundle'.

Alan Brundle
Chair of Governors, Pioneer Federation
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