

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter
Email: office@pioneerfederation.co.uk

Chair of Governors : Alan Brundle
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Partnership between Pioneer Federation and Nutley Primary School

Thursday 16th May 2024

Dear Pioneer Federation Families,

For some time, governors have been looking to expand our Federation, as we believe that this will give greater security to the future of our schools.

Our Governing Body is very pleased to share the exciting news of our intended partnership working with Nutley Primary School, from September 2024. Nutley was investigating several different options, but they confirmed that they were very interested to form a partnership with Pioneer. At a meeting of the Pioneer Governing Board on Monday 25th March 2024, the governors agreed to the creation of a partnership agreement and a formal partnership from September 2024, with the idea of Nutley joining the Federation at a date in the future, yet to be agreed. At the same time, it was confirmed that either party could break the agreement at any time prior to the formal expansion of the Federation. During the partnership period, we will be seeking feedback from the whole school community about the development and effectiveness of the partnership. If the collaboration is successful, governors would hope to enter a more formal and permanent federation.

Do visit Nutley website: <https://www.nutleyprimaryschool.org.uk/>

Mr Procter, as Executive Headteacher, will be working across the 5 schools from September, spending a fifth of his time in each school. Mrs Vile, as Senior Head of School will also be supporting at Nutley during the partnership period.

Although the creation of this partnership will have an impact on some of the Senior Leadership Team, it is not anticipated that there will be any immediate impact on the existing staff at Pioneer. Therefore, children are unlikely to notice any change in the immediate future.

Other staffing arrangements for next year will be explained in separate letters early next term.

Chiddingly, East Hoathly, St Mary's and Park Mead have enjoyed a successful Federation over many years and have 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 Ofsted and outstanding SIAMS inspections across the schools.

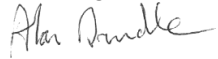
Nutley Governors share Pioneer's collaborative vision and values, and this is why governors have chosen this partnership for our schools. We will continue to share and develop the strengths of all the schools to increase future school improvement. Nutley school is like our schools, graded by Ofsted Inspection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

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Brundle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alan Brundle
Chair of Governors, Pioneer Federation



Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter
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Partnership between Pioneer Federation and Groombridge St Thomas CE School

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Dear Pioneer Federation Families,

For some time, governors have been looking to expand our Federation, as we believe that this will give greater security to the future of our schools.

Our Governing Body is very pleased to share the exciting news of our intended partnership working with **Groombridge St Thomas School**, from September 2024. Groombridge St Thomas was investigating several different options, but they confirmed that they were very interested to form a partnership with Pioneer. At a meeting of the Pioneer Governing Board on Tuesday 9th July 2024, the governors agreed to the creation of a partnership agreement and a formal partnership from September 2024, with the idea of Groombridge St Thomas joining the Federation in September 2025. At the same time, it was confirmed that either party could break the agreement at any time prior to the formal expansion of the Federation. During the partnership period, we will be seeking feedback from the whole school community about the development and effectiveness of the partnership. If the collaboration is successful, governors would hope to enter a more formal and permanent federation.

Do visit Groombridge St Thomas website: <https://www.groombridgest-thomas.e-sussex.sch.uk/>

Mr Procter will be working across the 6 schools from September, spending time in each school. Mrs Vile, as Senior Head of School will also be working with Groombridge St Thomas during the partnership period. Miss Powell as headteacher remains in overall charge at Groombridge St Thomas but will work with Pioneer leaders during the partnership period to plan and deliver greater educational opportunities for pupils.

Although the creation of this partnership will have an impact on some of the Senior Leadership Team, it is not anticipated that there will be any immediate impact on the existing staff at Pioneer. Therefore, children are unlikely to notice any change in the immediate future.

Chiddingly, East Hoathly, St Mary's and Park Mead have enjoyed a successful Federation over many years and have 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 Ofsted and outstanding/excellence SIAMS inspections across the schools. The most recent being East Hoathly [Ofsted](#) and [SIAMS](#) June 2024.

Groombridge St Thomas governors share Pioneer's collaborative 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. Groombridge St Thomas is like our schools, graded by Ofsted Inspection as a 'Good' school. (April 2023) and Excellent in SIAMS (February 2020).

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 Groombridge St Thomas 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 six 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 Groombridge St Thomas partnership.

With all good wishes,



Alan Brundle
Chair of Governors, Pioneer Federation