

BREDENBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bredenbury, Bromyard, Herefordshire, HR7 4TF
E-Mail: admin@bredenbury.hereford.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.bredenburyprimary.org.uk>
Executive Headteacher: Mr M Farmer
Head of School: Mrs S McAtear
Tel: 01885 483253

Friday 11th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that the deadline for teachers moving in September has passed, I wanted to let you know the arrangements planned for next year. This has been an unsettled time for education in general, but I am sure you will agree that Bredenbury has coped well with the many challenges it has faced over the last 18 months.

As many of you will be aware, the Ofsted report received in late 2019 placed the school in Special Measures and this automatically triggers something called a Direct Academy Order (DAO) for a school that is controlled by the Local Authority as Bredenbury currently is. Essentially, the Department for Education legally has the right to enforce the academisation of the school out of Local Authority control and it must be sponsored into a new or existing Trust. In many respects this is not an issue for Bredenbury, governors had always taken the view that they would seek to academise in the future, but with the DAO in place there is no option. Many of you will also know that we have long been working towards a combined Multi Academy Trust (MAT) in Bromyard with QE and St. Peter's so that we can best protect the interests and history of all three schools. This work is continuing at pace and we believe we will form that small trust within the next 6-8 months. Being a part of a small, local rural MAT has distinct advantages for Bredenbury and allows us to keep our values and ethos central to the school, as parents and carers you will see little change moving forward but will begin to see the impact of the benefits as we become more embedded. Your views are also important, and a formal part of the process is a consultation period which may take place this academic year but is more likely to be early next academic year, we will keep you fully updated.

I will remain as your Executive Headteacher, and hopefully that is a role that I will be asked to continue as the school becomes an academy into what I hope will be the local MAT. Mrs McAtear will remain your Head of School, however as Bredenbury is so small we do need to share resources to remain viable, and therefore she will also pick up the Head of School role at St. Peter's from September, splitting her time between both schools so that everyone benefits from her expertise. She will not teach as much as she does at the moment, but knowing Mrs Mac well, I know she will want to do so where she is able.

This is why we have brought Mrs Jefferson into the school from St. Peter's. I have just this morning had the pleasure of seeing her teach the children who were fully engaged, and it is clear to me we are very lucky to have her here with us, from what I can see already the children really like her and respond to her and that is very important within primary school.



Mrs Campbell has returned from her maternity leave and although not well at the moment, we hope Mrs Porter will soon be back with us as well. Miss Robinson who has been a most valuable member of the team concludes her time here at Bredenbury with the maternity cover she was retained for at the end of last academic year coming to an end but remains within the group of schools as she will pick up post at St. Peter's from September.

You should also know that I have restructured QE so that I can now be at the primary schools a lot more, and in actual fact my permanent base in September will be Bredenbury where we plan the proposed Trust offices will be sited. I am already working at the school a lot and am often to be found in the classrooms so rest assured Mrs Mac and myself are fully in tune with the quality of education the children are receiving.

We expect Ofsted to visit us again this term for a physical monitoring visit. If it goes well and inspectors are able to see the hard work that has gone into the school first-hand, then there is a chance they might remove us from Special Measures before the summer. This would be nice for all concerned and reflect our hard work, but if they wish to monitor for a little while longer, we would also understand that. The important thing is that for all concerned we show inspectors just how well the school is now doing and how the children are enjoying their experiences here.

You may or may not also know that with some arm twisting with the Local Authority, they kindly agreed to fund new boilers for the school, these have now been fully installed at a cost of in excess of £25,000 so hopefully no more closures due to heating issues for many years to come.

I know that Mrs Mac and the staff at Bredenbury are getting organised to make the end of the school year as fun-filled as possible so do expect some announcements in the coming weeks about activities and events forthcoming.

Finally, having looked at the likely push back on the government road map, I have decided to leave the arrangements we have in place for drop off / pick up etc for the remainder of the summer term. It is likely any final relaxation may not now take place until effectively a fortnight before the end of term, so it makes more sense and is less disruptive to stick with what has essentially worked for the year. It remains only for me to thank you for your continued support and join with us when you can to sign off this academic year in style.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Farmer
Executive Headteacher