Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary School and Pre-School
Bonfire Lane, Charlton Mackrell, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7BN
Email: school.office@CMPS.uk
Website address: www.charltonmackrellschool.org.uk
Tel: (01458) 223329

'The one who gets wisdom loves life' Proverbs 19:8

Dear all,

As a Community Learning Partnership, High Ham VC Primary, Curry Rivel VC Primary, Long Sutton VA Primary, Chilthorne Domer and King Ina CofE Academy have been working together for many years now and have built strong relationships with a real focus upon collaboration. At Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary we have also been part of this Community Learning Partnership. Alongside many other schools, over the last 12 months we have all been investigating the options that we have in relation to our future position - be that staying as we are or joining a multi academy trust. At this point Charlton Mackrell C of E Primary have joined the discussions, and we have undertaken significant research both individually and collectively and decided that for the benefit of our children, staff and communities, we would like to explore being part of a multi academy trust moving forward.

There are a multitude of reasons for this. Multi Academy Trusts are charities that have responsibility for running a number of schools. By working in partnership with each other, the schools within a trust can share staff, curriculum expertise and effective teaching practices, and work together to deliver the best outcomes for pupils.

While other types of school partnerships can be effective, the key difference with academy trusts is that there is shared accountability for standards. Schools within the trust support each other and the trust is accountable for them all. We would welcome the opportunity to be part of a strong network like this.

Having decided that we would like to investigate the possibilities open to us, we have worked closely with colleagues from the Diocese of Bath and Wells, listened to numerous presentations from different organisations, visited schools and Governors from all 6 schools have made a decision that we would like to join The Priory Learning Trust. The Priory Learning Trust consists of 3 secondary and 8 primary schools across Somerset and North Somerset. The Trust comprises a mix of rural and suburban, church and non-church, large and small schools, educating young people from 2-18 years. We are going to work in close partnership with The Priory Learning Trust, and the other schools over the next 12 months or so with the intention of joining during the next academic year. We will of course keep you updated as we go through the process and ensure that we share some of the work we are doing with you.

We are really excited to formalise our successful partnership of 6 schools whilst benefiting from the knowledge and expertise of a wider family of schools who share our

ethos and values. We realise you may have questions regarding this decision and as a Governing Body there will be a meeting arranged in due course, where we are able to explain this decision in more detail and to provide information on the trust itself. This decision has been made with the best interests of the children at the forefront or our minds. Life in school will carry on as normal and there will be little noticeable change for the whole school community.

Kind regards

Ali Allen & Rosie Dawson

Headteacher and Chair of Governors from your school