

## Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The governors and staff of St Marys are pleased to be able to inform you of some changes that will be happening at the school in September. As I am sure you are aware the population of Great Dunmow and the surrounding areas continue to grow, and school places have failed to keep pace with this increase. Data from Essex County Council has predicted that there will be a need for extra primary school places in our local area for the next 3 years and they have been looking at ways to address this need.

Following discussions of the various options with local schools we were selected as a school suitable to accommodate extra children, and in September 2019 and 2020 we will be welcoming 3 reception classes into our school community. We are delighted that our academic performance and school ethos placed us in this position, and it means that in September we will be able to offer a school place at Dunmow St Marys to every child who placed us first, something that we could not have done with only 2 classes available.

This decision was not taken lightly however, and the impact on the learning and school experience of our current and future pupils needed to be carefully assessed to ensure that this would not be impacted in a negative way.

Mrs Griffiths and her team have drawn up a detailed and comprehensive action plan for the time that we will have the extra children with us, and presented this to the governing board. We are confident that this planning means that our existing and future pupils not be impacted, and that the school will continue to provide its high quality education to every child, in a welcoming and supportive environment. Additionally, the support that we have received from Essex County council will be enable us to carry out positive changes to the school buildings over the summer, changes that we would otherwise not have been able to make. The improvements to our buildings are permanent and will benefit all pupils for many years to come.

Essex County Council have invited the public to an online exhibition to review the current proposals before they are completed for submission to the County Planning Authority as a detailed planning application. Comment forms are available online to allow the views expressed to be considered prior to the submission of the planning application.

The consultation will be available from **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. And can be viewed at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/infrastructure-delivery/consultation-for-dunmow-st-marys-primary>

(or <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/> search St Mary's Primary)

In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the school or board of governors if you would like any more information.

I hope that the whole school community will join the staff and governors in welcoming our new pupils in September as they begin their educational journey with us.

Regards,

Dave Perry, Chair of Governors