MORLEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

'The Morley Feeling where anything can be achieved.'

Main Road, Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DF
Telephone 01332 831295
http://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headmaster Mr Tony Taylor

13th December 2023

Dear Parents,

We have some exciting news to share about the future of Morley Primary School. Morley Primary is in the early stages to become part of a new academy in Derbyshire called ACE Academy. This new academy will initially consist of seven other small rural schools who uphold similar beliefs, values, and ethos to Morley. This decision has been reached after numerous governing body meetings and has been approved and the initial application submitted by Jim Campbell, our Chair of Governors.

This opportunity represents a significant milestone for our school community. While change can sometimes be daunting, we believe this transition will bring about numerous benefits for our children, staff, and the entire school community.

One of the key advantages of joining ACE Academy is the increased opportunities it will provide for our children. Being part of this academy network will grant us access to enhanced resources that at times being a small rural school we can miss; expanded curriculum options; and innovative teaching methods. These opportunities will enable us to further nurture and support every child's individual talent and interest.

Additionally, the transition to ACE Academy will foster greater collaboration among our staff. Through shared training programs and collaboration with other schools within the ACE network, our teachers will share and access a wealth of expertise and resources, continuously developing their skills and enhancing our children's learning experiences.

Becoming a part of ACE Academy will pave the way for greater school development. We will have more autonomy to tailor our contextualised locally-based curriculum to meet the specific needs of our children, ensuring a more personalised and effective learning environment for all. We understand that this change might raise questions or concerns, which is why we have designated a community engagement period for January 2024. Throughout this time, we encourage and welcome any questions you may have. Information sessions and opportunities for discussions will be organised to address any queries you may have regarding the transition.

It's crucial to note that while this transition is a choice we've made for the betterment of Morley, it's also part of a larger national mandate. ***All schools are required to become academies***, and we are committed to navigating this change in the best interest of our children and our school community. This is why we have chosen a newly formed Derbyshire-based academy which aligns with our Morley Feeling ethos, rather than being forced into a much larger, corporate academy in the near future. A conversion to an academy is a lengthy process and can take anywhere between 12-18 months.

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I would like to reassure you that the following elements of Morley Primary School will remain the same:

The Headmaster, the Governing Body, the teachers and support staff, The Morley Feeling, the school's name, the school logo, the school uniform, Play and Learn, the school location (building), the times of the school day, the curriculum pillars and the local contextualised curriculum.

We are genuinely excited about this next chapter in Morley Primary School's journey and the opportunities it will bring. Your continued support and involvement are invaluable as we move forward together.

As part of my role as Morley's School Development Officer, I will provide regular further updates and details regarding the engagement period in January. Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me on Class Dojo.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the success of our children.

Many thanks,

Mrs S Jackson
School Development Officer