

10th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update on the Amalgamation of the Schools

As you are aware, last year we announced exciting plans for Cuckoo and Woodpecker to amalgamate.

We have already undertaken many actions to bring the schools together, such as creating a single teaching leadership team and a curriculum for both.

We are also actively pursuing an ambitious project to see if we can expand the combined school with new buildings and facilities.

In order to amalgamate formally, the government also requires that you go through an official legal process before you are legally, in its eyes, one school.

The coronavirus pandemic has understandably delayed this legal process. We hope to have news soon.

School Uniform

As we have said before, the uniforms of the two schools will continue into the new academic year and will not need to be replaced.

A few families have contacted us to say they were having difficulty getting some items of uniform for the next academic year, or to replace existing items.

Our school uniform supplier, aware that the school is amalgamating, and that we are talking to other suppliers, has decided not to immediately restock some items of clothing which were running low.

This apparently often happens when schools amalgamate as the businesses want to see if any of the uniform changes.

Where schools amalgamate many will gradually phase out some existing uniform items over time. This is done so that families don't ever need to replace perfectly good items of clothing.

We will be doing this as well.

There is no need to be concerned in the event that your shop does not have an item of uniform.

It is perfectly acceptable for the children to come into the school in a jumper or PE kit which is of the same plain school colours/style but without the logo.

Moving Forward

I can tell you the good news that we are looking at providing a new jumper for pupils - but this would be done entirely at the cost of the Trust.

We obviously cannot provide the new jumpers until the legal processes for amalgamation are finalised.

We are also talking to other uniform suppliers to see if we can source existing or future items of the school uniform more cheaply, as the Trust has just been very successful at doing for Heron Hall Academy.

Once we have the final legal go ahead from the government I will write to you again.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Ross'.

Nicky Ross
Headteacher
Woodpecker Hall and Cuckoo Hall Academy
CHAT Leader of Primary Education