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14th December 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and other friends of our School

As many of you are aware, following discussion with parents and staff, the school Governing Body applied for permission to become an Academy and join the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust ("the Bath & Wells MAT"). The Secretary of State for Education has granted an Academy Order giving us consent to join the Bath & Wells MAT.

We looked at other options, including joining other MATs, forming a new MAT or staying as we are. We opted for the Bath & Wells MAT because we share the same values, the MAT's focus on early years and primary age schools and its proven track record in school improvement.

There are 12 early years and primary age schools in and around Bath all intending to join the Bath & Wells MAT as a "Hub". As an established Multi Academy trust, joining the Bath & Wells MAT can have an immediate impact in reducing the administrative burden on each school, for example with HR support services and budgeting support. The Bath & Wells MAT recognises that our schools are individual and different, but at the same time many of the challenges we face are similar. Working together as a "Hub" will enable us to share resources and best practice still as separate schools, but all as part of the same organisation with a strong sense of shared ethos.

More information about the Bath & Wells MAT is available at www.bwmat.org where you will also find some questions and answers. Further information is also available on the school website: batheastonprimaryschool.co.uk.

We are seeking the opinions of stakeholders and would like to invite you to a public consultation meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2017 at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. Please look at the information available in the meantime, and send any comments or questions to consultations@bwmat.org.

If you require a printed version of any of the documents available on the website please either e-mail batheaston_pri@bathnes.gov.uk or contact the school office on 01225 858555.

The consultation will remain open until 31 January 2018, and the questions and answers will be updated from time to time in response to any queries received. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 10th January 2017.

Emma Carmel
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body of Batheaston Primary School