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Principal: Mr Odran Doran B. Ed (Hons), M. Ed

16th July 2010

Dear Parent/Carer.

Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust

As you will be aware, our plans to become part of the SWISS Trust and change status from a Community School to a Foundation School are well advanced. This letter is designed to update you on progress.

A full consultation process was held during the six-week period beginning on the 1 October 2009 and resulted in the Governing Body deciding to proceed with these plans. In March 2010 we published a statutory notice and a formal proposal which set out the detailed plans which had been refined to take account of the earlier consultation exercise. All this information has been and remains available on the following website www.swisspartnership.org.

Following the statutory period for representations and objections ending on 31 March 2010, the Governing Body met and agreed that we should become a Foundation School and be part of the SWISS Trust.

The Governing Body will continue to run the school and be responsible for its performance and we remain excited and committed to becoming part of the SWISS Trust. As a school, we will continue to serve the local community, build on our strengths, preserve our distinct identity and remain a part of the Local Authority family of schools. The Local Authority is supportive of our plans and will in fact be one of our partners on the Trust.

Working together is nothing new for our school. Over the past five years we have been part of a highly successful relationship with a wide range of schools that have worked together under the banner of SWISS (South West Ipswich and South Suffolk). This has resulted in a diverse range of exciting developments which have benefitted both our staff and pupils. The requirements of today's world means that we need to collaborate with others and combine our strengths and expertise if we are going to provide our young people with the first class opportunities they deserve and need to compete in adult life.

You may recall we intended to implement these plans from 1 September 2010. However, following the general election and with a new government in place we are in the process of clarifying its commitment toward Trust schools and any impact becoming part of a Trust may have on some of the other plans or developments the new government might intend to introduce. At the present time such information is not available from the Department for Education (DfE).

We want to ensure that we do the very best for our school and its community and make the right decision based on being absolutely clear and fully acquainted with all the facts. With this in mind, and remaining highly committed to the Trust development, all the schools have decided to defer the date of implementation to 1 January 2011.

This will enable us to continue our dialogue with the DfE about the governments developing plans and we will of course keep you updated.

Regards,

Suffolk County Council
Simon White
Director for Children and Young People

