

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

FOUNDED 1789



EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

Ms Helen Comfort
(B.A.Ed.Hons, NPQH)

HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Mrs Hilary Shaw
(BEd)

Laureston Place
Dover, Kent, CT16 1QX
Telephone: (01304) 206887
Fax: (01304) 205152
e-mail:office@st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk
www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk

Monday 5th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carers

Since Mrs D'Cruz resigned as Headteacher last year the School Governors have been committed to finding the *right* Headteacher for the school – someone who has the experience and skills to understand us and the vision to help us to fulfil our potential; someone who will love our school and really wants to be here.

We have tried to recruit a Headteacher twice now, without success.

Our Local Authority and Diocesan Education advisors also told us that it is becoming increasingly difficult to appoint good Headteachers to smaller schools all across the County. The governors became very concerned about the stability and morale of the school if we continued to advertise again and again without a good result.

It occurred to me that the qualities and experience we were looking for in our new Headteacher were exactly those shown by Ms Comfort in her role as Interim Executive Head. Ms Comfort has been the Headteacher of St Margaret-at-Cliffe Primary School for 14 years, and it has become an Outstanding school under her leadership.

In consultation with interested parties we have now reached an agreement with the Local Authority and Canterbury Diocese Education Departments, and the Governing Bodies of St Mary's and St Margaret's Schools, that Ms Helen Comfort will remain as Executive Headteacher of both schools, dividing her time equally between the two sites. This will be a permanent arrangement for the time that Ms Comfort is in post, and we hope that will be a long time!

Mrs Hilary Shaw will become Head of School, working every day at St Mary's overseeing the day to day running of the school and working closely with Ms Comfort on the strategic leadership of the school.

We believe that this will give our school the leadership and stability it needs. It will build on the excellent work Ms Comfort has already done this year to strengthen our staff team and develop a coherent and strong strategy to improve our school and make it the best it can be.

There is much yet to be done. But, with Ms Comfort's leadership, I believe that we can work together to meet the challenges we face in our desire not only to maintain the Good status of our school, but make it an Outstanding one.

Revd Dr John Walker, Chair of Governors

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Canterbury Diocesan
Board of Education