



St. Helen's Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs J Walker & Mr A Robertson
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22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families enjoy a restful and enjoyable half term break – it looks as though we may be starting with some very welcome sunshine.

We are writing to share two important updates about the future of St Helen's Primary School.

Multi Academy Trust Update

As you will be aware from previous communications, over the past year the Governing Body has been carefully exploring the possibility of St Helen's Primary School joining a Multi Academy Trust. This work has been driven by the Governing Body's responsibility to secure the very best outcomes for pupils, both now and in the future. In doing so, governors considered the longer-term challenges facing the school and how to deliver the strongest path to address these – strengthening sustainability, expanding opportunities for staff development and enriching pupil experiences within a wider, supportive school community.

This work began in 2025, when governors formed a working party to engage with and evaluate a number of local trusts. This included meetings, discussions and visits to schools, with a clear aim: to identify a partner that shares our values and will support St Helen's to remain a strong village school at the heart of its community. In parallel, we have carefully engaged with staff at St Helen's to ensure that they are fully informed and able to contribute to the process. Their views, experience and commitment to the school have been an important part of our discussions and decision-making.

From an initial group of six trusts, we shortlisted three earlier this year. Before Easter, we shared our intention to explore a potential partnership with Meridian Trust in more detail. Meridian was recommended by the governor working party and selected by the entire governing body based on a selection of reasons, including; Alignment in values, local partner schools, and opportunities for staff development. Since then, a thorough due diligence process has taken place, involving colleagues from both St Helen's and Meridian across academic and operational areas.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the recent consultation. Your feedback has been invaluable and has been carefully considered by the governing body. The consultation responses contained a number of questions which were answered within the presentation sessions, however there are a few common themes that we intend to add to our FAQs to support the community in understanding our decision making process. These will be published on the school website after half term.

Following a meeting of the Governing Body, I am pleased to confirm that **Governors have approved the decision for St Helen's Primary School to join Meridian Trust**. Subject to final approval from the Department for Education and the Secretary of State for Education, we are planning for the school to join Meridian Trust from 1 September 2026, ready for the new academic year.

We want to reassure you that:

- The school will retain its name, uniform, ethos and strong community focus
- There will be no immediate changes to the day-to-day experience for pupils
- There are no plans to change the class structure, class sizes or staff structure
- We will continue to work closely with families throughout this process, and our choice of Meridian has in part reflected our desire to ensure that St Helen's remains a strong part of the local community
- The local governing body will continue to support and have oversight of the school as an Academy Council, and will support staff, pupils and the community through the academisation process

Headteacher Appointment

We are delighted to share that **Mr Dan Ainscow has been appointed as Headteacher from September 2026**.

Dan is currently Co-Headteacher at Crosshall Junior School in St Neots, which joined Meridian Trust in 2025. He brings over 25 years of experience in education and has recently led his own school through a similar transition. He is very much looking forward to joining St Helen's and becoming part of our community. We look forward to welcoming him formally in September.

Whilst we have the public opportunity, the Governing Body would also like to place on record our sincere thanks to **Mrs Walker and Mr Robertson** for their leadership, care and commitment to the school, staff, pupils, families and the community over many years.



They have made a significant contribution to the life of St Helen's and the wider Bluntisham & Colne communities. 'You will both be greatly missed'.

We recognise that this is a significant moment for the school. While many will feel positive about the opportunities ahead, others may understandably have questions or concerns. Please be assured that we are committed to keeping you informed and supported throughout the process, and we will continue to prioritise ensuring that we provide the very best education for pupils at St Helen's.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office in the usual way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of St Helen's Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Sampson, Chair of Governors

Rachel Minett, Vice Chair of Governors

For and on behalf of the Governing body of St Helen's Primary School, Bluntisham