

20 October 2017

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Halls BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Dear parent/carer

Our formal collaboration is now half a term old – time has flown by! I'd like to particularly thank the pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors at Victoria for making me – along with the new members of the senior leadership team, Mrs Crozier and Miss Bradford – so welcome.

Our collaboration aims to:

- ensure outstanding leadership at every level
- ensure high quality teaching and high quality learning environments for all
- ensure high quality governance
- ensure clear stakeholder accountability
- ensure that our distinctively Christian ethos underpins all our work

So far this half term, to work towards these aims, we've:

- begun to look more closely at progression in some of our curriculum
- aligned some of our school policies
- held joint governing body training on the Distinctive Christian Character for our schools
- begun to plan opportunities to increase pupil involvement between our schools
- continued our focus on working in partnership with Swing Gate Infant School, for example with our joint Harvest collection for DENS.

We've also created a page on both our websites for collaboration information, news and updates:

- www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk/collaboration
- www.victoria.herts.sch.uk/our-school/our-collaboration

Nationally, there are a number of issues facing schools – pupil outcomes and progress, inspections, pupil numbers, school funding and the new national funding formula.

Schools are finding that one way to minimise some of these pressures is by working more closely together and achieving organisational efficiencies – for example as with our local community schools and their multi-academy trust proposals. As you're aware, our two governing bodies are committed to our schools working more closely together and, to this end, are continuing to discuss ways in which we can work more strategically in the future to ultimately ensure better outcomes for children.

Things are never still and calm in the world of education but we all remain committed to working in closer partnership to achieve the best learning experience for every child. Thank you for the crucial part you play in that journey – we hope to get you more involved after Christmas with sharing ideas for our future plans.

Have a great half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Halls
Executive Headteacher