Dear Parents,

Attain Academy Partnership

As you are already aware, Newlands Spring Primary School converted to MultiAcademy Trust (MAT) status on 16th October, 2016 following a successful period as a single academy trust.

The governors are proud of Newlands Spring and its pupils and staff and are keen to see the school continue to develop and grow stronger. Working in partnership is essential to this process, and a MAT is a formal partnership of schools, all with unique identities and features, working within a single Trust. Through a MAT we can collaborate with, learn from, and support other schools, including those that wish to become academies but are unable to at present, and those that require a sponsor. Collaborative working with other schools in a MAT offers many benefits for students and staff; sharing best practice in teaching and learning, curriculum collaboration, extra-curricular opportunities, staff development, finance and human resources, legal services, school improvement structures and governance arrangements. We also believe that by working together we can make our money go further and keep school funding focussed on teaching and learning.

As part of this process, Rayne Primary and Nursery School is considering becoming an academy and forming a MAT with us. The schools share a similar ethos of high aspiration and believe that the MAT could strengthen both schools and provide wider opportunities for students and staff. In forming a MAT, the schools would retain their unique identities whilst sharing some governance arrangements and some support functions such as finance, HR and maintenance. Together we will set up the vision and values underpinning the MAT and the governance structure behind it. In the future there may be other schools that wish to join the MAT, however this will only take place where values are aligned and there is a clear benefit to our school and the MAT as a whole. Ultimate responsibility for the schools in the MAT lies with the Trust Board of
governors which will combine representatives of both schools, bringing the skills and experience important for the success of the MAT. Each school will continue to have its own Local Governing Body which will continue to support and challenge the leadership of the schools. It is important to emphasise that formation and development of a MAT will be underpinned by our total commitment to maintain and enhance the outstanding work at Newlands Spring Primary School and our ethos and our standards will remain unchanged.

Should you have any questions I would be happy to hear from you via email (reception@newlandsspring.essex.sch.uk). Additionally, we will be holding a drop-in session in school (New hall – enter via the double door entrance please) on Friday September 29th at 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. This will be an opportunity to meet with myself and representatives from the Trust Board in order to discuss any queries you may have. If you would like to attend I would be grateful if you could email Mrs. Weatherhead reception@newlandsspring.essex.sch.uk to let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Susannah Edom-Baker
(Headteacher)