

1st September 2013

Dear Parents and carers,

Award of Academy Status

We are delighted to advise you that the Department for Education has today formally announced that we have been awarded academy status and the Heartwood Academy Trust, consisting of the four Academies of Austrey, Newton Regis, Warton Nethersole's and Woodside Church of England schools is now officially in place, and will receive funding direct from Government.

It has been a complicated, time consuming and at times a difficult process and we must take this opportunity to formally thank the steering group members and support officers for all their hard work and dedication in making this happen.

We are particularly pleased that decisions regarding the future of our village church schools, now rests with local people, and the professional team at each school. We hope and trust that this new autonomous academy status will allow us together to improve teaching and learning and provide an excellent start in life for hundreds of local children.

We would like to stress to you that the aim is to change as little as possible whilst seeking to continuously improve teaching and learning, value for money and the quality of the overall education your children receive.

Please find attached a 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet we have prepared for your information which is also on our school website

In summary this new status brings freedoms,

flexibilities and accountabilities compared to being a maintained school and these include -

- **Freedom to allocate budgets:**
- **Freedom to decide how the curriculum should be delivered:**
- **Freedom to achieve value for money:**
- **Strict Financial management and accountability**

Finally, may we wish you all well in our first year, and assure you that the new Board will be working with the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team to maintain the ethos of our schools, aiming for a seamless change, yet one that will enable us to continue to deliver and improve the high quality education our village children need and deserve.

If you have any concerns or queries, please raise them with the Head Teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Rueter

Chair of Governors

Susan Bostock

Head Teacher