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Website: [www.peacehavenheights.co.uk](http://www.peacehavenheights.co.uk)  
Tel: 01273 575989

**Executive Head Teacher: Stuart McConnachie**  
**Interim Head of School: Cassandra Palmer**  
**Assistant Head: Wendy Wiltshire**  
**Chair of Governors: Angela Mills**

**Juniors:** Hoddern Avenue,  
Peacehaven. BN10 7QY.  
**Infants:** Roderick Avenue,  
Peacehaven. BN10 8UZ.

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that there will be no strike on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the infant site will be open to children as normal, however the junior site will remain closed as it is being used as a Polling Station. We wanted to inform you of our decision regarding the best option for the future of our school. As you know, our principal concern as a governing body, is always to work to ensure the best interests of the pupils, members of staff and the school as a whole. Following several months of intensive investigation, we feel that we can achieve the developments needed for our school, by remaining as a maintained school with the East Sussex Local Authority (LA).

You will remember that last October, the LA encouraged us to explore academisation as an option for our school as there were some challenges which were considered to be impeding our progress. The LA view was that the best way forward to enable the school to secure sufficient support for improvement, would be by joining an academy trust. The LA considered that it did not have sufficient capacity to be able to support the school now and in the future.

Since then we have worked very hard to reach a balanced and objective view by undertaking thorough research of all the possibilities open to us, including academisation. Our main focus throughout, has always remained the same - to make sure that we achieve the best possible outcome for our school. To do this, we have undertaken a careful assessment of all the options open to us, weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of remaining with the LA or joining an academy trust.

We feel we are now in a stronger position than we were at the beginning of the year, thanks to the professionalism and hard work of all our staff, who are currently being most ably led and supported by Cassandra Palmer our Interim Headteacher and Stuart McConnachie our Executive Headteacher. We have secured further good fortune by appointing an experienced, substantive Headteacher who will begin working with us in September.

The work that we have completed on researching academies will not be wasted - it has helped make us a much stronger and better-informed governing body. We do not know the future, but there can be no doubt that at the moment, the support that the LA is able to offer schools is diminishing as a result of a lack of funding. We, along with other schools in East Sussex, may well find ourselves in a weakened position again in the near future and having to reconsider academisation.

We feel that our school is developing the capacity to improve further and we anticipate continuing an upward journey. We look forward to working with our new Headteacher in the Autumn term. We hope to be able to secure a period of stability with the time to capitalise on the recent improvements which have been made in order to allow the school to continue to grow and flourish.





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We offer our warmest thanks for the support you gave us whilst we carried out the task we were given.  
We are most grateful for all the letters and messages we received.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Mills on behalf of the governing Body of Peacehaven Heights Primary school and Nursery.

