

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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17th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware from correspondence earlier in the spring term, we applied to the DFE for a significant change to our age range enabling us to provide provision for children from age 2-11. The proposed change was requested with a view that from September 2024 we would transfer Early Birds Pre-School into Bunbury Aldersey Primary. Thus, creating Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary and Nursery School.

In order to establish a nursery within the school, it was necessary for the Trust to change the age range through DFE application which was submitted early in the spring term. As a school, we are only able to make this significant change for 2-11 year old provision once it has been approved by the Regional School Commissioner and DFE. The Rural Church School Board of Directors have approved the change.

Despite the application being with the DFE for a number of months, this week, I have received notification that the DFE are *"currently pausing activity on significant changes until new Ministers confirm the Government's policy regarding this area of work. We are discussing with Ministers what this means for schools that are well progressed with plans to make urgent changes and will update you shortly with our position."*

As I am sure you will appreciate, I am particularly disappointed that we have just received this communication as it means that we are not in a position to open as Bunbury Primary School and Nursery for September 2024. Early Birds will continue however to operate in the interim and we look forward to a proposed date of 4th November 2024 for opening.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Early Birds Manager should you have any questions or concerns regarding the delayed opening.

Many thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

Nic Badger

Principal Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School
Executive Headteacher for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust

