

The Coastal Federation

Bacton Primary, Mundesley Infant (SRB) and Junior Schools

Executive Head - Simon Wakeman | exechead@coastalfederation.com | @CoastalFed 

Federation Business Manager | Jenny Goodman | businessmanager@coastalfederation.com | **01263 720401**



Head of School - David Hopkins
office-bacton@coastalfederation.com
01692 650240



Head of Schools - Sarah Dallimore
Assistant Head of Schools - Simon Smith
office-mijs@coastalfederation.com
01263 720401

'together aspire, together achieve, together we are stronger...'

2nd February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We just wanted to update those who were unable to attend Wednesday's meeting regarding the closure of the swimming pool.

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended and voiced their views and asked lots of pertinent questions. It was never going to be an easy meeting for parents, staff or Governors, as there is a lot of emotional history attached to the swimming pool - this is why the decision has been such a difficult one. It might have appeared to a minority of attendees, that we were not prepared to listen to some of the proposals. That was certainly not our intention, we were in fact trying to ensure that the facts we had, were fully explained, which can sometimes be very difficult when emotions are running high, as they were on Wednesday.

We knew there would be 'upset' at the closure of the pool and have been overwhelmed at the willingness of parents to engage in the discussion. As a group of Governors we are sometimes put into a position when we have to make very difficult choices, decisions that have to be made using the head and not the heart - we are only human but those decisions are always made with the very best interests of all of the children, even when they are hard ones like this!

We would like to thank Mrs Dowson-Collins for the dignity she showed during the meeting, which must have been incredibly hard for her. We would also like to thank the many parents who came up at the end or have emailed-in since, to express their disappointment at the closure of the pool but also their understanding as to the reasons why.

A very positive aspect of the meeting was that we now have a small working party who can help shape the long-term future of swimming at The Coastal Federation. We plan to meet very soon. We believe that by harnessing the passion and energy shown at the meeting and on social media, that a charitable community trust could be formed, with the exciting vision of potentially building a brand new facility, which would be a wonderful community asset.

Although the governing body will still have to close the pool on the 28th March, for all the reasons stated in our letter, we will be working closely and helping to facilitate in any way we can, the future direction of swimming.

On another note, we have been made aware of a number of 'less than helpful' comments on social media. Thankfully, this has only been a small number of individuals, which we know does not truly represent the majority of parents' views. Moving forward, we want to work together for the benefit of all of the children in our schools.

Regards

Annie Edwards
Federation Chair of Governors

Simon Wakeman
Executive Head