

Date: 20 October 2017

My Ref: MD/JB/MW20102017  
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Dear Parents

**North Yarmouth area school organisation**

Following the recent school organisation consultation in North Yarmouth I am writing to inform you of my decision to close Alderman Swindell Primary School and extend the age range at North Denes Primary School, both from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

I realise the decision I have made will disappoint many of you in the school and the wider community.

I have considered the representations made during the consultation and I am very aware of the passion and support for keeping Alderman Swindell Primary School. I acknowledge and respect the strength of feelings on this. However, my role as decision-maker is to look dispassionately at the case for school organisation, to ensure that the County Council does what is best for children in the area now and in the future.

I have also considered all the other factors that need to be taken into account when considering a school closure I am confident that my decision is the right thing to do to ensure the best education for North Yarmouth children.

Many of you, as parents, have told us you don't agree with this proposal and that your children do not either. Experience over many years of school reorganisations has taught me that such feelings are common for parents and pupils, but also that once the process of transition to a new school and new school building is underway, these fears recede.

The Determination Report will be available on the County Council website from Friday 20th October on <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/north-yarmouth>

**Next Steps**

We will be working with both schools to manage the plans to be ready by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. This will include looking at all options for those staff who may be at risk of redundancy as well as admission arrangements for Alderman Swindell pupils.

I have read the responses detailing specific concerns about the future use of the Alderman Swindell building. I understand there will always be sadness when we decide to close a school. However I am confident that the County Council will shortly confirm, through appropriate procedures, that the Alderman Swindell site will be retained for educational use. This will enable more children in Great Yarmouth to be taught in their local community.

Finally, I very much hope now this decision has been made, that both schools and their communities will work towards this new educational opportunity for children.

Yours sincerely



**Matt Dunkley, CBE**  
**Interim Executive Director, Children's Services**