



Windermere Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have seen from Mrs Raftery's recent letter, I confirm that Mrs Raftery will be leaving her post as Head Teacher of Windermere Primary at the end of this academic year.

Mrs Raftery has been an extremely effective Head of our School. During her time with us, she has built a strong team around her and has worked with them to support the success and development of the School, its staff and pupils. She mentions some of these successes in her letter but, as a parent of children who are in and have been through the School, I can say that her greatest success must surely have been to create an environment where the children (and their families) feel safe, secure and supported.

We saw Mrs Raftery's ingenuity and tenacity during the lockdown, when Windermere was ahead of many other schools in the way in which it prepared the pupils for closure, ensured that they had learning (and play!) activities for home schooling, and kept in regular contact with families throughout. The School – under Mrs Raftery's leadership – went above and beyond what it was "required" to do at every level, and our children directly benefited from that.

We are, naturally, very sad to see her leave. However, we understand and support her decision entirely.

The Governing Board has started the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher. We are confident that we are in a strong position to find an excellent candidate who will continue Mrs Raftery's good work and who will support and enhance the School's values and ethos.

Mrs Raftery will continue to lead the School until the end of the Summer, and life at school will continue as usual. When we have appointed Mrs Raftery's successor, we will update you further. The Governors will work closely with Mrs Raftery to ensure a seamless handover to the new Head (hopefully including an opportunity for him/her to meet the children before September), so that the impact on the School is minimal.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Governing Board, we would like to thank Mrs Raftery for her hard work, commitment and dedication to Windermere School over the past decade, and wish her all the very best with her well-earned retirement.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Perry
On behalf of the Governors

