



Windermere Primary School

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10th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

After ten years of headship here at Windermere and with a milestone birthday on the horizon, it is now time for me to hang up my metaphorical whistle and to turn my focus and energies elsewhere, joining my husband in retirement.

This has not been an easy decision, Windermere is so much more than just a school, it is a close-knit community and it has been my good fortune to be part of this community for the past decade. Headship is one of the best jobs in the world; it is incredibly rewarding to work with children, parents and like-minded professionals, knowing that you are changing lives one day at a time. However, it is most certainly not a 9am – 3:15pm job, nor is it a job that you leave behind at the end of the day, especially during a pandemic!

I am proud to have led the school through two successful Ofsted inspections, to have worked with staff and governors to improve the curriculum offer for all pupils and to have created a well-resourced school environment. Some developments have been obvious, such as the addition of the library and meeting room, the wildlife area and theatre; some are less apparent or more subtle such as the additional residential visit to Phasels Wood, the school's partnership with St Albans High School and the introduction of new schemes of work.

However, I am now looking forward to my retirement and all the opportunities that will bring –term-time holidays and time to craft, learning a new language perhaps, tending the bees and training a new robin to feed from my hand (you need to look back to the first lockdown for that to make sense).

Windermere Primary School is very fortunate to benefit from an experienced and skilled team of governors, who are responsible for the appointment of a new headteacher from September 2022. Once the appointment has been made, I will be working closely with the appointee to ensure a smooth transition for the autumn term.

Mrs Perry, the Chair of Governors will be writing to parents separately, but I know that you will welcome my successor into the community and that you will support them in a role that, whilst it is undoubtedly rewarding, also has its challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Raftery
Headteacher

