

# STOKE PRIOR FIRST SCHOOL

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20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are at the end of another school year - and what a year it has been! As always, we have to say goodbye to our Year 4 children as they prepare to make the move to middle school. Today we were treated to a truly wonderful final class assembly from the children and, hearing them share their reflections of their time in our school, I felt very proud of them. They all recounted various memories of things that they have enjoyed during their time here and I was left in no doubt that they are well prepared for their next step. Good luck to our Year 4 leavers for 2023.

We will also be saying goodbye to a larger than usual number of staff this week too. On Wednesday, we held a special assembly for Madame Venables, who has taught French across the school for seven years. Yesterday was the final day of an amazing 45-year career in teaching which in itself is incredible. I am so grateful for all her hard work here as the standard of French teaching is very high. We will miss her presence very much.

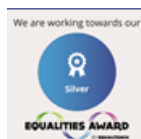
Miss Gilbert (Hannah) from our wraparound club is off to university in September to study and we wish her all the best. Whilst Hannah has been studying her A-Levels she has been working with our children after school. She has always brought a fantastic energy to the club, getting down to the children's level and making sure they have a great time after school. We hope all goes well as she takes her next step in education.

Mrs Sharpe leaves us after three years as a teaching assistant in a range of classes, but most recently in Year 2. Mrs Sharpe has been incredibly dedicated throughout her time here, supporting both individual children and as a classroom TA. Mrs Sharpe wishes to become a teacher herself and leaves us to take up a new position that will enable her to fulfil that dream. We wish her all the best for the future and I know she will be a great teacher.

Miss Martindale in Year 3 is also heading off to pursue a career in teaching, which is great for her as she has been working really hard over recent years to lay the foundations. Miss Martindale has worked here for five years, also in a range of classes. She is very resourceful and always willing to step in, no matter what. She has supported the children so well during her time with us, and for this, I know class teachers and myself are incredibly grateful. Becoming a teacher is very important to Miss Martindale and I have no doubt that she will become a very committed class teacher in the very near future.

Mrs Nash has decided it is time to retire. She has been with us for five years working in the school office as both an administrator and more recently the school's finance manager. Mrs Nash has been an integral part of the school office, helping ensure that everything financial runs smoothly and in schools at the moment, this is no easy task. I am so very grateful for all the support she has given me, especially after Mrs Vernon left last year. I wish her all the best for the future.

Mr Tolley, our cleaner in charge, is also retiring. He has been with the team for 13 years and given an incredible level of service in that time. Responsible for so many jobs around school, he will be sorely missed. From decorating to fixing things, building furniture to bravely coming out to school in the middle of the night because the alarm was going off! The list would go on and on and on. I can't thank him enough for all he has done and all the staff wish him the very best for his retirement.



Mrs Vipond in Year 4 is also retiring to spend more time with her loved ones. She has been a teaching assistant within the school for an incredible 20 years! Often, when people leave a job, we say things like, “whoever takes over from Mrs Vipond will have big shoes to fill”. At this point, I can honestly say that is completely true. Mrs Vipond has worked tirelessly to support the children and staff here and given so much. Whether it has been teaching lessons, supporting groups of children in class, looking after the library, lunchtime supervisor, managing the fruit and milk daily, going on residential visits, the list goes on. Thank you Mrs Vipond for all your hard work and dedication, you will be sorely missed but we all wish you an amazing retirement.

So as we break up tomorrow for the summer, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and wish everyone a very happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you all again on September 5th.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Satchwell  
Headteacher

