



Little Stoke Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Anne Sargent
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with sadness that I inform you of my decision to leave Little Stoke Primary School with effect from the 31st December 2020.

This has been a very difficult decision to make and one that I was not expecting as I had hoped to remain at Little Stoke for at least another year or two. However, recently I have been having some health problems which are affecting my ability to carry out my role as Head Teacher and give the very best that our parents and children deserve.

I have been in education for nearly 35 years altogether and I have thoroughly enjoyed all my roles over that time. Although I will have only been a Head for just over two years, it has been a job I have greatly enjoyed and felt privileged to have, albeit for a short period. However, headship is a demanding role and I have become aware that not being fully fit is beginning to have an effect on my ability to do the job as well as I would wish and is seriously affecting my own family life too. I have always sought to do my absolute best for the children and adults connected to the school community and our school deserves nothing less. Little Stoke Primary School is a very special place with a wonderful atmosphere. This is the result of a strong staff team and the very positive relationships we have fostered within the school community. I know that these strengths will continue to develop after I leave at Christmas.

I have loved working alongside your children and supporting them in their learning journeys. They are the most important part of our school – they are what gives our school its life, its creativity and vibrancy. I have valued the supportive parents we have here who are determined to make our school the best it can be for all our children; your loyalty and commitment is incredible. I have also been so fortunate to work with a very special group of staff and Governors who move mountains to enable children to succeed. Naturally, with my departure, all those most important parts of the school will remain the same.

I have notified the Governors of my intention to leave at this early date to enable them to appoint a new Head by the end of the summer term, who will then be able to start after Christmas, after I leave. This will avoid the school having to appoint an interim Head and ensure that the highest standards in the school are maintained. However, if recruitment is delayed due to the current coronavirus situation, I will stay until Little Stoke has a permanent replacement. There are still eight months to go and I intend to forge ahead with plans and objectives for the development of Little Stoke Primary over that time and will support the Governors in making the transition as smooth as possible so that the things you most value about our school are preserved.

I am sorry to bring this news at such a difficult and uncertain time but, having made the decision, I felt it important to tell you rather than putting this on hold for maybe several months. I have also spoken to the children today about this.

Personally, I plan to take some time to recover fully and then look for a new challenge, including finally getting my children's books published which has been a lifelong ambition, only thwarted by lack of time! Although I believe this is the right decision for me personally, I am also incredibly sad to be leaving. Little Stoke will have been a very important part of my life for over 25 years!

Yours sincerely,

Anne Sargent (Head Teacher)

