



Morecambe Bay Community Primary School
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Monday 22nd February

Dear parent/carer,

I hope that you have all had as good a Half Term break as it has been possible to have in current circumstances. It is such a relief to feel Spring approaching, with the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils out.

I am sure you have heard the various media leaks that schools are to reopen fully from March 8th. This is yet to be confirmed, but looks highly unlikely to alter following tonight's announcement. My team and I are giving careful consideration to previous risk assessments and planning for the safe return of your children. We will send out full details about our plans to reopen over the course of this week but yet again I want to thank you and your children for working alongside our hard-working staff to keep our children learning. Hopefully there is not much longer to go.

After months of careful consideration and reflection, I have come to the decision to take early retirement from the post of Headteacher at Morecambe Bay School at the end of this academic year. I have been Headteacher at our school for nearly 17 years and do not reach this decision lightly: Morecambe Bay Community Primary School has felt like a 3rd child, with all of the downs but mostly ups that the role entails. I love this school and community deeply and am proud of all that we have achieved together. It has been my greatest professional privilege to be your school's Headteacher. It will be hard to leave you all, many of you have become friends and I have seen some who I have fond memories of as past pupils return to us as parents.

In recent years I have worked alongside the Police and multi-agency partners in a secondment to Lancashire Violence Reduction Network for two/ three days per week and this role will continue for at least another year. Though this arrangement has provided opportunities for development for my Senior Leadership team and I, it has also challenged me to ask how long such an arrangement should and could continue.

This year has been the most challenging of my career, because of the pandemic and has caused me to consider what happens next. I believe us to be approaching the end of the most disruptive impact of the crisis and am proud of the way we have risen to this greatest challenge of our working lives.

I will remain in post until the end of the summer term through the turbulence of all that Covid has and is continuing to throw at us, but I consider us to be heading into a new phase of

leadership challenge; a time of rebuilding, of regrowth and reinvention. This feels like the right time to pass the baton on and to look at new opportunities for myself.

I have looked closely at the timing of this letter and know that appropriate appointment procedures can be made in order to allow a wide spread of applicants, including those already serving as Headteachers elsewhere. Our Governors are an amazingly talented and committed body of people who I know will make a great job of appointing your next Headteacher. Whoever is appointed will be very lucky to lead this wonderful school.

In the meantime, we will continue to face the challenges of the rest of this academic year together and I will keep you informed about developments as they emerge. Thankyou for your ongoing support.

Yours,

Mrs S Collingwood, Headteacher.