

WRINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Ms Sarah Joskey MA

"Cherish and nurture, flourish and aspire"

Wednesday 13th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to update you on the proposal of a shared headship between Burrington and Wington Church of England Primary Schools following Burrington head teacher, Mrs. Waite's, retirement at the end of December.

Following consultation meetings held at both schools in the summer term, Governors voted to continue with this proposal, subject to due diligence. This has now been completed and it is a very great privilege to have been appointed to this new role, which will take effect from January. I am looking forward to the opportunities that this restructuring will give both schools.

In these changing educational times, we are all benefitting from closer collaboration with all our colleagues in our Cluster of local primary schools and beyond, and the shared headship between the two schools is part of that process. Both Wington and Burrington Church of England Primary schools have their own special identities, created over many years and each has served children and their families for many generations. It is my hope that by having shared leadership and more formal links between the two schools, there will be an enrichment of each other and that both schools will continue to develop and thrive individually for the benefit of the communities they serve. Through this process, members of the governing bodies have also been able to work more closely together. As this continues, the strategic work of the schools will also be enhanced as different expertise can be shared.

Having a wider pool of professional experience upon which to draw will develop staff knowledge and skills which will ultimately benefit the children of both schools. I hope that we will also be able to share some resources to enhance the curriculum.

We are very fortunate to have a very experienced, established and dedicated senior leadership team at Wington who already undertake leadership work in the school and this will be extended with my shared headship work. Mrs. Clarke (Deputy Headteacher and class teacher in Y4), Mrs. Whitehouse (Assistant Head and class teacher in Y2) and Ms. Matthews (Senior teacher and class teacher in Y6) are the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

As this is a new leadership structure for both schools, there is inevitably going to be some evolution in terms of how it develops. We have spoken to other schools and federations where similar arrangements exist to determine the best way to operate; however, no two schools are the same and we will surely find the best way that suits our two schools. It is my intention to be based at Wington three days each week and in Burrington two days each week. However, there will be times when I may move between the sites during a day to attend a meeting or special event or I will be attending other Heads' meetings in a different location. Some work will also be common and relevant to both schools, thus saving time.



When I am not on site, a senior member of staff will be in charge at each school and I will also be contactable if necessary through the school office. As is the case at present, should a parent or carer wish to raise an issue with a member of staff, they should speak with their child's class teacher in the first instance and then, if further discussions are needed, a member of SLT will be their next point of contact before the Headteacher. Although I will not be on site all the time, may I assure you that I have 100% commitment to both schools and I am determined to do all I can to ensure that both Wrington and Burrington Church of England schools continue to thrive as individual schools.

Whilst I am sure shared headship will bring many benefits for your children and future children at the school, I am keen that we continue to seek views from parents about what is working well, and what is working less well as the new arrangements come into effect and bed in. The SLT and I will therefore be hosting a drop in session at around the end of the term and we will send out further details nearer the time.

I have today, sent a similar letter to the parents of Burrington children to explain how the shared headship will work (as I have above) and to introduce myself. I include an excerpt from my letter for your information:

Some of you may already know me as I have lived and worked in the region for many years. Before becoming Head at Wrington eight years ago, I was Deputy at Churchill CEVC Primary and prior to that I worked in South West London. I did, however, grow up in the Mendips and it is a very great pleasure to be working in this beautiful area. I live with my husband and three children in Somerset. I have a great love of music, particularly singing, although a proportion of my 'spare' time is spent taking my children to their music lessons or football training. I am very familiar with the fun of a busy family life!

The Governors and I are looking forward with eager anticipation to the many opportunities that this future restructuring will enable in both schools. Despite this structural change, we are committed to maintaining the ethos of our school as we work together in partnership for the children with the school motto, 'cherish and nurture, flourish and aspire' continuing to be the foundation of everything we do.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Joskey
Head teacher

