



INSPIRE BELIEVE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE



# Willow Fields Primary School

Monday 9th July

[www.willowfieldscommunityprimary.org.uk](http://www.willowfieldscommunityprimary.org.uk)

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly I want to thank those of you who came to support the nursery and Key Stage 1 sports day on Friday. It was lovely to see our youngest children competing in their races... and the staff who sometimes had to compete with them too! It was great to see the support for the children! Thank you too for not taking photos of the children. It is hard as a parent not to take photos of your children but we have some children in school who for whatever reason cant have their photos taken and it is for their protection that we ask you not too. Thank you for your co-operation.

It is a time of great change at Willow Fields as we move into next year and I know that there has been some speculation in relation to which staff are staying and which staff who are sadly leaving us. There is always a turn over of staff in a school as people retire, move on to new roles, become ill or seek promotion and this is what has happened this year. I am now in a position to let you know of some of the changes that are happening and by this time next week I will be able to tell you exactly which staff will be in each class next year so your children can spend time with their new teachers before the summer.

It is with great sadness that I will first tell you of the people leaving us. I asked each of them to write a paragraph to explain to you their reasons and to say goodbye to you themselves. These include Mrs Anderson, Miss Hill, Miss Conner, Mr Tait, Mrs Armstrong and Miss Hillery.

"After putting it off for years I have finally decided to retire from Willow Fields. In 27 years I have never felt it a chore to come to work and I have enjoyed every minute of every day. It has been a real joy to have been able to see the children grow from Nursery until they leave in year 6. I will miss the children, parents and staff immensely but I look forward to spending more time with my husband and taking the opportunity to go on holiday whenever I want rather than waiting for school holidays. I wish you all the very best for the future and you will always be in my thoughts. God Bless—Mrs Anderson"

" I wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the children and families of Willow Fields Community Primary School. After 30 years it wasn't an easy decision to move on but I feel that the time is right for me to try something else in life and therefore have decided to leave education and search for a new venture in September. My time in Willow Fields (formerly Witherwack Primary) has been a truly rewarding experience and I can look back at my years here with so many amazing memories. Memories of all the staff who have made my time here so enjoyable and so many I can now count as life-long friends; their support and friendship has been a large part of what has made this school so special to me and has played a major part in making the school such a strong community. The children that I have supported throughout the years will always have a special place in my heart. I have watched so many children grow throughout their time here and have had the pleasure of watching some of these children become parents themselves and bring their own children to Willow Fields to continue the legacy. I would also like to mention the wonderful community spirit that Willow Fields has- every year I am blown away by how you all pull together not just for the joyous occasions such as the celebrations, talent shows and school fayres but also in times of sorrow and need. You have never failed to amaze me with how generous and supportive you can be of school and the wider community. I am so proud of the time that I have spent here and will miss being part of the Willow Fields family. I wish all the families of Willow Fields the best for the future. Miss Hill"

"I would like to take this opportunity to share the news that I will be leaving my position at Willow Fields to begin a new venture working at Gosforth East Middle School. This position is a very different and exciting venture which will allow me to work much closer to my own family as both of my girls are of school age now. I have worked at Willow Fields for 13 years and have truly had an amazing time. I have had the pleasure of working with fabulous children and have grown close to many of the families. I will cherish my memories here and this school will always have a special place in my heart. The children are truly special and I am proud to have taught them over the years. I have worked with inspiring and dedicated staff and we have had some difficult times to work through together. The whole community has pulled together during such times and I do feel grateful to have been part of such an amazing extended family. I know I have made some lifelong friends and I am blessed to have worked with such a range of incredible people. I would like to thank everyone for your support over the years and I wish the children here the absolute best for the future—they are all superstars! Mrs Armstrong"

" I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the wonderful children, parents and staff at Willow Fields. In September, I will be starting a new adventure at George Washington Primary School in Sunderland. Willow Fields will always be very special to me as it is where my teaching career began and I will never forget my time here. I have the most amazing memories of the children and staff that I have worked with over the past 5 years which I will cherish forever. The children of Willow Fields are one in a million and I will miss all of them very much. I wish each and every one of them the best of luck for their futures. I hope that they continue to dream big and reach for the stars. I will miss you all very much. Miss Conner"



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"As many of you will know I have had several health issues over the last few years and am still recovering from major surgery on my hip. Unfortunately due to the effects of this surgery, running around after your energetic little children is not possible for me at this time. Therefore I am very sad to say that I will not be returning to Willow Fields in September. Willow Fields has been a huge part of my life for the last six years and I will be really sad not to be working with all of the children and families that I have had the pleasure of getting to know since starting here. I wish everyone well and hope to still pop in from time to time to see how everyone is getting on! The memories I will take away from this school will stay with me always. Miss Hillery"

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff, children and parents that have made my first year in teaching so memorable. As some of you may have heard, I will be leaving Willow Fields in September to pursue my acting career in London. I have made so many amazing memories over the course of the year, my personal highlight being the Christmas production which was a brilliant success and was amazing for the children to be part of. I have learned so much from the children and have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow into young, respectable members of the school. I look forward to hearing all of the achievements that they will go on to make in year 6 and beyond. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and I hope you all have a brilliant summer holiday. Mr Tait"

Although there are a lot of people moving on and this is a time of great change, it is also a time of great opportunity for the school as we appoint people to the vacant posts in preparation for September. On Friday I was able to interview and appoint to those positions which are internal and I am really happy to tell you who was successful in those posts.

Miss Meagan Phillips will be the new office manager from September. She knows all of the families and children and has great experience of working in office environments in the past. She will work closely with Mrs Anderson in the coming weeks to prepare for taking over the office. She will also be in charge of attendance. Well done Miss Phillips!

Miss Baxter qualified as an HLTA in November and she will move into this post in September. She will work with all classes around school and support them to be the very best that they can be. I am delighted that she has been appointed to this post as she works very hard for all children in the school. Well done Miss Baxter!

Miss Mullen and Miss Hunter have successfully completed their NQT years and they have been awarded permanent contracts to reflect their hard work and determination to ensure that the children in their care get the very best education. I look forward to watching them as their careers develop next year. Well done Miss Hunter and Miss Mullen!

We have also appointed a new Assistant Headteacher in Mr Dawson! Mr Dawson came to school in February and has worked hard to support all staff and children across school. He has made a great impact on school in a short space of time and myself and the governors are pleased that he will take up this leadership position in school. Well done Mr Dawson!

Mrs Beavis will move to nursery in September to become the new Early Years leader and nursery teacher. She is very experienced as a nursery teacher and is excited to take on this new challenge in school. She will oversee Nursery and Reception and will make sure that our very youngest children have the very best start in Willow Fields.

Mrs Mason remains as the PPA teacher and she will work in the nursery for some of the time to support Miss Beavis. Mrs Mason has a very important role in school as she looks after children eligible for Pupil Premium and she also works for the Foundation of Light which allows us to offer counselling in school for children as well as receive funding for certain visits and trips.

Miss Bexley will remain in nursery this year (when she returns from her operation) but she will have a slightly different role as she is going to be training to become a teacher. This is a very exciting time for Miss Bexley as she is an excellent Early Years practitioner and this is a great opportunity for her to develop further and eventually have her own class. I am sure that she will be great!

Mrs Wharton, Vinnie Graham and Libby Holmes will continue to work in school in their different roles as they provide essential support for the children and staff.

This week I am interviewing for the positions of senior leader and class teachers and I will inform you as soon as I can of the outcome of these interviews and your children's teachers for next year. I hope that you can appreciate that I have been unable to inform you of the changes to staffing until now due to staff confidentiality and the various processes that need to be followed.

Best wishes and as always thank you for your support.

Mrs Robertson