

10th June 2024

Dear parents and carers

I have written an abundance of letters home to parents and carers over time, but this is without doubt the most difficult of them all. In September, I will not be returning as Headteacher of Windhill21, but I will be continuing my role as an Executive Headteacher across the Ivy Learning Trust.

Windhill21 has been an integral part of my life as a headteacher for 11 years during which time I have striven to make Windhill21 the high achieving, vibrant and nurturing school that it is today; this has taken copious quantities of passion and conviction. I embarked on the headship with a degree of trepidation as there was quite a hill to climb, but armed with an ambitious vision and a belief that Windhill21 children can stand out and thrive as being confident, articulate high achievers supported by an environment of high expectations, this ignited me and drove me forward regardless of setbacks. The vision could not be achieved single-handedly and the team around me has always been crucial to Windhill21's success. I am indebted to all the hard work and support previous staff have put into the school as everyone played their part in the journey. With the school community on board, the school was able to transform into the flourishing school it is today.

No school should stand still and be complacent; a school must respond to changes in the educational sphere, new political landscapes and global challenges. To achieve these demands, a headteacher requires energy, foresight and the ability to work with others to carefully craft the future for the children in terms of an ambitious curriculum and high expectations for each pupil. Sarah Wood has all these attributes to take the school forward and I am thrilled to share with you that Sarah will become the substantive Headteacher of Windhill21. Sarah has seamlessly worked with me as the Head of School, to lead Windhill21 since I took on the Executive Head role in January 2023. I cannot praise her enough; we have worked together for many years as Head and Deputy and together we have had a synergy and close relationship which has enabled us to have the courage to take on and embed new initiatives; this has made the school richer in the quality of provision and ensuring that Windhill21 is cutting edge. I will miss her on a day-to-day basis, but I have utter faith that she will drive the school forward with integrity and resolve.

Mrs Chloe Myers will continue her exceptional work as Deputy Headteacher; she is an asset to the school and has shown enormous acumen and impact in this role already. I am also delighted to announce that Mrs Sara Mihajlovic will become Assistant Headteacher; her curriculum expertise along with her drive and passion is an asset to the school. I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the promotion of Mrs Sarah Watson-Clarke to Senior Teacher, Early Years Lead.

I will miss every aspect of Windhill21, particularly the warm and openness of the children. All the staff are incredible; they work tirelessly and with team spirit. As I type, the wrench of departure is slightly overwhelming; the thought of not being part of such a wonderful team is somewhat haunting me but I am confident that I am leaving the school safe in the knowledge that Windhill21 will continue to grow in capable and safe hands.

Despite this letter feeling like the last farewell, I am sure that I will see you all before the end of the year and I hope I get the opportunity to say goodbye to you all personally.

With very best wishes



Philippa Moore
Executive Headteacher