



Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mel MacKinnon

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that, after many weeks of serious thought and reflection, I have come to the incredibly difficult decision to resign from my role as Headteacher at Willow Lane from the end of the Summer term. In the meantime, it will be 'business as usual' until then.

I have enjoyed being Willow Lane's headteacher and am immensely proud of the school and its achievements and I will miss the community spirit, the brilliant colleagues and above all the children whose energy, enthusiasm and achievements make the role so rewarding.

You may be wondering why I have reached this decision. I am not leaving to become a headteacher elsewhere but, as I have shared with the children through a video on Seesaw, am having a change of direction for two reasons. You only get one chance at life and I have decided that I would firstly like to spend more time with my young family and secondly I would like to pursue a career in some of my other interests (such as forestry and wildlife conservation) that you may know I am involved in outside of school.

At this stage, what parents and carers need to know is that I am leaving and that both the governors and Lancashire are aware of this and acting on this news. I have informed them early in the year so that as much time as possible can be spent on appointing a new headteacher for September. You may be wondering if recruitment is possible at the moment and it is. The headteacher process also takes time so the interviews will be held after this current lockdown is expected to end.

Some of you will be aware that Sarah Fish, our Deputy Headteacher, is due to take early retirement at the end of this year too. She has been so important to improving the school over the last 16 years and I know you will join me in wishing her the best of luck for the future. At this point in time, appointing a headteacher will take priority but we are in the lucky position of having such strength throughout our teaching team that should we need to appoint an acting Deputy as an interim measure then we can do this.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for your ongoing support during my time as headteacher and to reiterate that I am still here, that it is business as usual and I look forward to seeing you and your children back in school as soon as possible.

Yours,
Mel MacKinnon

Mel MacKinnon (A very proud headteacher)

