



'working and growing together'

SECOND AVENUE | FITZWILLIAM | PONTEFRACT | WEST YORKSHIRE | WF9 5BA

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Headteacher: Mrs Susan Harrison

Acting Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope all is well. I am sure that you aware of my absence from school during the last year. My absence has been the result of illness which was initially thought to be a stroke but was eventually diagnosed as a relapse caused by a progressive illness known as Multiple Sclerosis. This diagnosis was completely unexpected. During the past year I have undergone treatment and rehabilitation. As my rehabilitation and treatment progressed it became apparent that I would be unable to return to my role of Headteacher at Fitzwilliam. Therefore it is with great sadness that I must inform of you all of my retirement from a role that I love dearly. This has been a heart-breaking decision but I would like to thank the Trust and of course my family for their support during this process.

Looking back, I am so very thankful that I started my teaching career at Fitzwilliam. Since September 1992 school became my second home for 28 years. I started my working life as Miss Robinson, under the care and guidance of Julie Murray and have ended my time as headteacher working with a committed and caring group of people. Throughout this time I have always been extremely proud to be a member of the Fitzwilliam team and to contribute to the nurturing ethos that pervades throughout every part of our school. I deem myself extremely fortunate that I ended up at Fitzwilliam and appreciate greatly the opportunities that have been afforded to me but more importantly I have enjoyed immensely working within the warm and welcoming community of Fitzwilliam filled with fantastic children and supportive parents.



Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Susan Harrison	Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Paul Quarry	Acting Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Tracey Morgan	Learning Mentor
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Tim Downes	EYFS Manager
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Vikki Scott	SENDCO and KS1 Manager



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During my 28 years at Fitzwilliam there have been so many lovely memories that it is hard to include them all in this letter. However particular highlights throughout the years have been the Christmas concerts, Year 6 Leavers assemblies, The Prom, Upper Foundation Stage children's first day of full-time school, INSPIRE mornings, seeing what brilliant role models our children are on school trips but most of all simply walking down the corridors during the school day and observing all the inspiring learning taking place. It is hard to describe just how much I will miss everything but the memories I have will last forever.

I would like to thank all the staff that I have had the great pleasure working with. There have been so many, all so different with so many skills, but all with the same educational philosophy - it's about the children! Hopefully we all did our best to nurture and see your children thrive. My particular heartfelt gratitude go to Norma West who really did look after me both as a new teacher and then as a headteacher, Neal West who was my first Chair of Governors and supported me every step of the way during my first years of headship and of course Paul Quarry and Tim Downes who have been my right hand people throughout everything.

I believe that the school we have built together matches the needs of the Fitzwilliam community and allows our children to thrive. Schools are living, breathing beings that reflect their community and change continuously. Fitzwilliam Primary School does this! I have endeavoured to make Fitzwilliam a school that welcomes all children, provides an inspiring education but more importantly nurtures each child as an individual so that



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they grow into happy, fair people with a love of learning and are proud members of their community.

Finally, I would like to thank you. You have always supported our school and been unbelievable partners in your child's education. You trust us every day with your most precious possession and that is something that I have never taken for granted. I have never viewed my role of headteacher as a job but rather as an adventure that I have enjoyed every single day. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for letting me have the privilege of playing a small part in your child's development.

Thank you all for helping create so many lovely memories which will last me a lifetime and thank you also for making my time at Fitzwilliam something that I have adored and will miss desperately.

With my love always and gratitude forever.

Susan Harrison
Headteacher



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