



Athersley South Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an enormous privilege to serve as Headteacher of Athersley South Primary for the past twelve years, but I am writing to share with you that I will be stepping down from my role at the end of this academic year.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, nor one that has been easy to make. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Athersley South and feel truly honoured to have worked within such a fantastic school community. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated and talented staff, to support and celebrate the achievements of our wonderful children, and to be part of a wider community that cares so deeply about the school.

However, after much reflection, I recognise that now is the right time for me to hand over the reins and allow someone else to guide the school through the next stage of its journey. While I will be stepping down at the end of August, my commitment to and love for the school remain as strong as ever. It will very much be business as usual until the end of the academic year and I will continue to give the school, its staff and its pupils my full dedication throughout this time.

I felt it was important that you heard this news directly from me. Plans are already underway to appoint a new Headteacher, and I wanted to ensure that this information was shared openly rather than being heard as part of a rumour. The Governors, working closely with the ECM Academy Trust, will recruit a successor and will be seeking to appoint the very best person they can for the role. This is exactly what everyone in our school community deserves.

As I reflect on my time at Athersley South, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I will always be thankful for the opportunities the school has given me and for the many wonderful colleagues I have had the privilege of working alongside. Most of all, it has been a joy to work with the truly fantastic children who make Athersley South such a special and unique place every single day.

I would also like to thank you for your support and partnership over the years. It has meant a great deal to work with families who care so deeply about their children and their school. Some of you I first met as pupils in my classroom, and it has been particularly special to now work with you as parents within the school community.

Athersley South is a very special place. The strength of our staff team, the enthusiasm and kindness of our children, and the continued support of families and wider community ensure that the school is in a strong position for the future. I know that whoever is appointed as the next Headteacher will be welcomed by a community that cares deeply about the school and its ongoing success.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Sanderson