

Beverley School

A specialist school for children and young people with autism where staff and governors are fully committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils



Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JS

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7th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you for possibly the final time as Head Teacher. This term has been one of the most challenging of my career, for obvious reasons, and not at all what I had planned. I have been very sorry to miss our annual awards and leavers' assembly, music festival, sports day, visit from the ice cream van, transition week and the myriad of other events which make the term so significant and enjoyable. Of course, you and your families have been faced with similar challenges and there is some comfort in the knowledge that everyone has had difficult times and therefore understands.

It has been a great privilege to be Head Teacher at such an amazing school. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside such fantastic staff and children. I would also like to say thank you to you as parents. Your support has been invaluable and much of the success of Beverley School relies upon it.

I would also like to thank the Governing Body. They voluntarily give up hours of their time during the school year and are largely unseen in their work for the school. They are an especially dedicated group of people and are incredibly focussed on the success of the school.

Mine is not the only goodbye. Jan Henry is retiring after 28 years at the school! Jan is a stalwart of the school and her dedication to her job will be much missed by colleagues and children alike. She is amazingly organised and always in school early preparing for the day.

Martin Stephenson is also retiring after 12 years. He has supported pupils through Physical Education, Sports Leaders Award, Duke of Edinburgh and of course the much loved Weardale Residentials. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.



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Moving on to pastures new, we say good bye to Rebecca Simpson, Neive Mallory, Keeley Heslop and Maddie Pearcey. All are moving on to new, exciting times and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Of course with goodbye comes hello. Pippa Irwin is the new Head Teacher and has been working really closely with us this term to gain as much knowledge of the school as possible before September and I know she is very much looking forward to meeting you all and getting started in her new post. Lewis Murphy also joins us as the new PE teacher.

In terms of returning in September, we will be in contact with you before the summer holidays with the plans that we are able to put in place based on the information from Government. We very much wish to have as many children in school as possible.

And so goodbye. I regret not being able to say goodbye individually to you as I would have done at our various school functions. I can only say thank you once again for the privilege of being part of your children's lives for a time and I wish you all the very best.

Stay safe.

Joanne Smith

Head Teacher

Over the last 7 years Joanne Smith has led a hard-working staff team to make improvements that have seen Beverley School go from strength to strength, and make it the wonderful community it is today. Her commitment to providing the best learning experience and opportunities for all pupils has been evident throughout, and every decision made has kept this focus in mind. This has made a huge difference to the outcomes for pupils as they move forward with their education, and will continue to make an impact for years to come. I am sure that you will join the Governors in thanking Joanne for her dedication to Beverley School and wish her all the very best in the next chapter of her life.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Pippa Irwin to school. While the transition period has been a little more challenging than we had hoped, Pippa has been able to spend time in school and is enthusiastic to pick up her role in September. Pippa is very keen to begin welcoming children back to school and Governors are confident that with the support of staff this can be undertaken safely and smoothly.

Helen Murphy

Chair of Governors



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