



'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'

Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a safe and enjoyable break over the summer and are ready for the new term.

It is with some sadness that I write to advise that Jo MacGovern has stepped down as Head Teacher and will not be returning to our school. We thank Jo for her work at Heene over the last five years and know that she will be missed. I am sure that you will want to join me in wishing Jo and her family all the best for the future.

Jo has asked me to forward the following to you:-

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sorry not to be with you at the start of this new school year. The last term, in particular, was very difficult for me in many ways on top of Covid-19.

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I have made the decision not to return to Heene this September. I'm sure your children will all thrive and prosper under new leadership and the next chapter for the school.

The last 5 years have seen the school change in so many ways. It's hard to believe that we had no playground, the school was still a building site, the hall had no audio system, there were very few trips and no sports teams when I arrived. We have transitioned into a primary school but there is still much more to achieve and accomplish to ensure the school remains on the journey back to 'Good' in Ofsted terminology.

Please stay strong as a close-knit community with St Matthew's and St Botolph's churches as your guides. Thank you for all the memories and support I have received over the time I've been with you at the school.

Best Wishes

Jo MacGovern

Inevitably things will not be quite the same as before but much work has taken place over the summer to ensure that school is safe for return with social distancing and effective leadership.

Particularly, thanks should go to Joy Waelend, Jo Beer and Diane Cann who, with Jo MacGovern, have worked tremendously hard over the summer planning for the new school year to ensure that a safe return is possible for all pupils and staff. Miss Joy Waelend, who joined the school in June as Consultant Head Teacher, will be continuing and in addition we will be welcoming Mrs Nicky Cunningham.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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Both Miss Waelend and Mrs Cunningham have considerable experience and success as interim Headteachers and will be working together to take the school forward. I am pleased to advise that Miss Jo Beer is will continue the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Vicky Hill as Acting SENDCO.

Although the announcement of Jo MacGovern's decision not to return to school will come as a shock and a disappointment to many, we have been able to prepare for a smooth transition. I am confident that the school is in safe hands with a strong senior leadership team comprising Miss Joy Waelend, Mrs Nicky Cunningham, and the familiar faces of Miss Jo Beer, Mrs Vicky Hill, Mrs Michelle Cannon and Mrs Diane Cann. At times of change it is always good to have familiar faces for continuity.

You will shortly be hearing from Miss Waelend and Mrs Cunningham with their plans for the term but in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about the new arrangements.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freda Wimble', written in a cursive style.

Freda Wimble
Chair of Governors