



17th March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

This is my last letter to you all as I will be leaving my post as Executive Principal at Primley Wood PS from the Easter break. I can honestly say it has been a real privilege working with the whole team here and your children for the last 3 years and I will really miss being part of this wonderful school.

When I arrived in October 2019 for two terms initially, I never imagined I would stay so long. I persuaded my governors to second me for half the week from my headship at Manor Wood on the proviso that it would be a very short time period. However, who knew that a pandemic was just around the corner and who could have predicted the events that ensued? In all my 37 years in education (at the time) I really didn't think there was anything I couldn't handle and that I had seen it all. How wrong I was and I soon learned that we should always expect the unexpected! So, I carried on as EP at Primley Wood and HT of Manor Wood and we muddled our way through lock downs, bubbles, 2 metre distancing, hand gel, toilet papergate, face masks, Covid testing, last minute government decisions home learning, zooms and many other strategies I never want to undertake again. Life during the pandemic was challenging for schools and it was lovely for MW and PW to plan the way forward together. It was a very isolating time, as you will remember, and it was great to be involved with two schools.

During my time here at PW we've also had the pleasure of an inspection, (which was good, and we were very pleased) admitting new classes, opening a Nursery, changing the name of the school, a huge expansion in the number of children and a budget which covers the cost of the staff! (Always helpful.) Sadly, I also lost my mum and keeping being so busy has been just what I needed. On a lighter note, I got to attend Mr and Mrs License's wedding and to see Dougie walk up the aisle with the wedding rings. It was a proud moment and I'm not sure who I'll be sharing my lunch with when I'm back at MW full time.

As you can imagine, the time has gone in a flash and I'm now at a certain age and have decided that it is probably a good idea to reduce my workload and stick to one job for a while. I have been HT of Manor Wood since 2011 and it's time to return to my full-time role there. Obviously, we're just down the road and will always be friends of the team community of Primley Wood and support to each other when needed.

I cannot sign off before mentioning the amazing Mr License. You may have heard that it is very hard to recruit Headteachers at this current time to any school and to have someone like Jordan with so much energy and commitment is a wonderful thing. Nothing is too much trouble for him and he spends his every waking moment either in school or doing something to enhance what PW can offer. He is one of a kind and it has been fantastic working with him. It's been a rollercoaster of a time but I have loved every moment and have no doubt that PW will continue to go from strength to strength.

I hope you have a wonderful summer term. Jordan will keep me updated as to what is happening and I will follow the progress of PW with great interest. Good luck to you all.

Kindest regards,

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