

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely Easter break; as we start the Summer term I wanted to update you on our recruitment for a new Headteacher.

After undertaking two rounds of recruitment this year we were unable to appoint a new Headteacher for our school. This was obviously disappointing; even though the Local Authority advised us that recruitment of Headteachers within the county is very challenging at the moment, we had been hopeful. The governors have therefore taken the important decision to ask the Local Authority to put in place an Interim Headteacher for the next academic year.

We are delighted that Mrs Dunn has accepted this role and has agreed to lead our school in addition to Heatherside Junior School for the next academic Year from September 2022. We are indebted to her for this and excited for the year ahead. We're lucky that our schools already work in partnership and share the same site, making it easy for Mrs Dunn to move between the two schools as needed.

Mrs Dunn will divide her time between the two schools so the support she receives will be vital. I am confident that she will be well supported by our staff, parents, children, Governors, and her own school. To ensure strong leadership we are also looking to recruit a new Deputy Headteacher for September. We are advertising for a non-class based Deputy Head teacher to work under Mrs Dunn's leadership in the coming year and act as the day to day operational lead when Mrs Dunn is not with us.

We are also very pleased to announce that Mrs Jewitt will take on the role of acting Deputy Headteacher this summer term and continue to support Mrs Dunn and the new Deputy Headteacher in the Autumn term. This will provide continuity and support a smooth transition in September.

Some families will already know Mrs Dunn through older siblings but others will not; I know she is already thinking about how to make sure that she will be visible and available to staff, children, and parents at both schools.

This is a big change for both our schools and I'm sure will have challenges but it is also an exciting opportunity. We have a very hard working staff who, I'm confident, will support Mrs Dunn in the coming months to ensure the transition in September is as smooth as it can be. We're also looking forward to the schools working closely together again. The practicalities of Covid made working across schools difficult and we're looking forward to reigniting the collaboration between Infants and Juniors and focusing on areas like transition and curriculum continuity to ensure our children have the best possible experience.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Richards

Chair of Governors