



Durham Lane Primary School

Head Teacher : Mrs J.A.C Ball

Amberley Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 0NG

Telephone 01642 780742 Fax 01642 788834

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing News

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to one of our excellent long-standing teaching assistants, Mrs. Young, at the end of next week. We first met Miss Thomas (as she was then) as a student on placement here and were delighted to then be able to appoint her 14 years ago as a teaching assistant in the Nursery where she worked with our youngest pupils for many years. She has subsequently worked with every single year group at some point and has been involved in various initiatives such as Better Reading and Talkabout groups, as well as providing classroom support and PPA cover.

We really appreciate everything that Mrs. Young has given Durham Lane Primary School, even throwing herself into outward bound activities with a Y6 group at Robinwood, but understand her decision to take up a new position as a nanny for a family, a role that she used to work as before working in schools

We thank Mrs. Young for her dedication to the children and the work of the school; the children will miss her. The staff will also miss her very much as a colleague and friend. I'm sure you'll join us in wishing her the very best of luck in her new job.

There will be a further change in July next year. It has been a real privilege to serve as Head Teacher at Durham Lane Primary School for the last fifteen years. I am incredibly proud of everything that we have achieved as a team and truly believe that our pupils receive an education which is amongst the very best in this country.

As much I have enjoyed the countless challenges of this role, however, I have made the very difficult decision to retire at the end of this academic year. Whilst, technically, I do not need to resign until April, I have done so now in order for the governors to be able to appoint my successor in good time.

Our Governing Body has always gone from strength to strength during my time here and I remain very grateful for the amazing encouragement, support and appropriate challenge that I have received from the range of governors over the years. I am confident that the governors will make an excellent appointment and will continue to assist in the continued improvement of the school in time to come.

I am so incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such fantastic staff at this school who provide your children with some of the best teaching I have ever seen as well as excellent classroom support from our TAs. I have also been so fortunate to work with such a talented Deputy as Miss Barrett as well as our very able leadership team of Mrs Evans, Mr. Beane and Mrs. Khan, all of whom will continue to carry our school's growth forward. Mrs. Glindon, too, has been invaluable running our office and supporting my work so efficiently.

It is such a joy to work with your amazing children who have brightened every single day I have been here; what an honour it is to have played such a part in their growth and development.

It will be a real wrench to leave, but it is the right time for me to explore other opportunities and new adventures!

Thank you, all of you, for your ongoing support.

Mrs. J.A.C. Ball
Head Teacher