



7 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body I am writing to inform you that Mr Bessant will be leaving Mill Rythe Junior School at the end of the summer term to take up the role of Headteacher at Fair Oak Junior School from September 2021.

Under his leadership David has significantly moved the school forward in many different ways. The implementation of a broad and rich curriculum has seen our pupils progress well over time, not just academically but in other areas where new talents have been discovered, pursued and encouraged.

After school provision has significantly improved under David's tenure and prior to the pandemic there were 600+ weekly club places, mostly free where our children could enjoy a wide range of activities, some of which they may not have had the chance to do ordinarily. He has also created an environment where our staff are encouraged to develop their skills and knowledge and there have been many visits from other schools and the Local Authority to see the Mill Rythe team in action and observe best practice.

The pandemic has touched us all in a whole host of ways but especially for schools and children and we have been extremely fortunate to have had David lead the school at a time none of us will forget. He has continued to make sure that the children are his priority and at the heart of all decisions to ensure their safety and wellbeing together with receiving high quality of teaching and learning.

The Governing Body express their sincere gratitude and thanks for the contribution and commitment David has given to our school and its wider community, it has been exceptional.

The children have been told this news today and I would like to take this opportunity to assure both you and them that normal school life will continue until David's successor has been appointed. We have already started this process and as soon as there is further information to share the Governing Body will write to you again.

Our interim arrangements from September 2021 will see Miss Vousden appointed as our Acting Headteacher. Having had experience of leading the school previously in David's absence, together with leading on coaching and development in her current role, she is well placed to do this and will be very ably supported by Mrs Wintle our Deputy Headteacher.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating David on his new appointment and give him your continued support until he leaves at the end of the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Charlton
Chair of Governors