



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

01 September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Body of Horrington School to inform you of some changes to the original plans regarding the Headteacher role following the resignation of Mrs Williams.

As you might have been aware, initially Mrs Williams was due to leave the school at the end of the last academic year (August 2020) but unfortunately, the Headteacher recruitment process was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown. After consultation with the governing body, Mrs Williams offered to stay as Headteacher for 4 days a week until December 2020 to support the school. This was to allow us to advertise, with a view to appointing a new Headteacher to start in January 2021. This was an exceptionally generous offer from Mrs Williams, and one the Governors were very grateful to accept.

The recruitment advertisement in July 2020 did not yield a sufficient number of candidates to be able to go ahead with the interviewing process as planned. Advice given to us from Somerset County Council and other supporting external professionals indicated this was most likely due to COVID-19, and an immediate re-advertisement would likely give the same result.

Governors had to make a decision to ensure that the same high level of leadership continued and, with Somerset County Council's support, agreed to appoint an Interim Headteacher until the end of the next academic year (August 2021) to allow time for a more positive recruitment campaign in the forthcoming academic year. Somerset County Council gave a strong recommendation for an Interim Headteacher who was immediately available and the Governors felt that in order to secure this opportunity, we needed to act swiftly to register our interest.

With that in mind, and with the kind agreement of Mrs Williams, the Governors have since made arrangements for the Interim Headteacher to be in post for the week after the October half term holiday, and have offered the position to Mrs Lisa Goodland who is very eager to join our Horrington School community.

We want to reassure you that the alterations in timescales were entirely due to the change in circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the availability of a suitable Interim Headteacher. The Governors were very clear that they wanted Mrs Williams to return to school in September as we felt this was crucial to the wellbeing of the pupils. Mrs Williams and

the school staff have been working hard to put in place preparations for the full re-opening of the school in September and to support the pupils as they return to the 'new normal' of school life. Mrs Goodland will work with Mrs Williams in the two weeks before the October half term holiday to ensure an effective handover.

Although we will not be able to have a whole school farewell leaving assembly for Mrs Williams, we hope in some small way to be able to celebrate all that Mrs Williams has achieved to make certain Horrington is a successful school. We hope to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with Mrs Goodland in due course in line with Government guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

Jennie Eyre  
Chair of Governors