



Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School

Cherish Everyone ~ Flourish Together ~ Serve Others

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Update from the Governing Board:

Retirement of Mrs Nolan and partnership with Severn Federation Academy Trust

Hello everyone,

As you are aware Mrs Nolan has been absent from school due to ill health. It is with regret that I am writing to inform you that she has decided not to return to school. Below is a letter from Mrs Nolan which she has asked me to share with you.

I am sure you will all want to join me in thanking Mrs Nolan for her time as our Headteacher and to wish her well for the future.

Following Mrs Nolan's decision to retire the Governing Board has entered into a partnership with the Severn Federation Academy Trust, based in Lydney, to provide senior leadership and other resources to our school from September. Mr Guy Phillips, the Deputy CEO of Severn Federation, will be appointed as Head Teacher of Newnham for the coming year. Mrs Rachel Dare, CEO of the trust, will also provide senior leadership support. Both are highly experienced teachers, who established the Trust with Lydney and Aylburton CofE schools in 2020 and have successfully added Bream, English Bicknor and Severnbanks to their family of schools over the last two years.

We look forward to working with the Trust and their schools from September as we consider the possibility of becoming an academy ourselves. The Governing Board will consult with staff, families and other stakeholders to hear your views on this idea in the coming year.

In addition to the partnership with Severn Federation, I am pleased to tell you that the Board has appointed a Deputy Head, Mrs Aga Przybylska, who will be joining us from a London school in the new academic year, to provide additional teaching and leadership capacity.

As our temporary partnership agreement with St. White's comes to an end, I would like to thank Mrs Clare Tilling for putting a steady hand on the Newnham tiller since January in Mrs Nolan's absence. And I would like to thank all of you - our staff, families and friends - for the unstinting support you have given the school over recent months.

As ever, if you would like to discuss any of these issues please don't hesitate to contact me at MSmith@newnham-st-peter.gloucs.sch.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Matt

M D Smith
Chair of Governors

Message from Mrs Nolan

Due to ill health, I have not been able to be in school recently. I am grateful to Mrs Tilling for stepping in to cover me during this time. After much reflection, I have decided that now is the time to retire and I will be stepping down as Headteacher on 31st of August. I have loved being part of the Newnham family but am also looking forward to being able to spend more time with my own family.

I feel privileged to have been the Headteacher of Newnham St Peter's School for the last four years. During this time, I am very fortunate to have been supported by a highly committed staff team (both past and present staff members). Throughout, staff have worked hard to prioritise the needs of the children, even during the additional and unexpected challenges of the Covid pandemic. I will forever be grateful for the staffs' support, hard work and team spirit.

I am also very grateful for the support the school has received from parents. Not only have you supported your children with their learning in normal times you have also gone the extra mile during school closures to protect your children's wellbeing and help with learning. I am equally appreciative of the additional support you have shown through fund raising events, often organised by our hard working PTFA, and through volunteer days. As a result, you have been able to enhance the children's environment and learning opportunities both inside and outside.

I am also appreciative of the governors, not just for appointing me in the first place but also for the hard work they do, often behind the scenes and often with very little recognition.

However, I am most proud of our children. Not only do they never cease to impress me with their enthusiasm for learning they also demonstrate the school values of friendship, respect, perseverance, thankfulness, forgiveness and hope on a daily basis. They have brought a smile to my face every day and I know they will all go on to achieve great things.

Kind regards,

Anne Nolan