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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
Aycliffe Village Primary School
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Friday 14th February 2020

Dear parents/carers

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you I will be leaving our school after the Easter holidays. I am moving to a new role as I am finding the demands of the role of headship mean I am unable to spend enough time with my daughter and family. This is something I am not comfortable with when my daughter is still young so I am moving to a role that will be more accommodating to a work life balance and my family life. I have been trying to 'do it all' for a while now (like many working parents) however when I became so unwell with pneumonia and associated complications last term, I realised a change was needed. In my new role, I will be working for the Local Authority as an advisory inclusion teacher for special educational needs.

It has been a real privilege to be Head Teacher at Aycliffe Village for the last two years and I am very sorry to be leaving. I thank you for your support along the way and the trust you have placed in me.

Governors are currently liaising with the Local Authority and will meet to agree the processes that will need to happen when I leave. After working with them over the last two years, I know their dedication and commitment to the school is second to none and that they will give this situation the consideration, care and attention it requires. Governors will provide updates, in the newsletter, as and when further details are available.

I understand there may be some concern about change. Whilst this is natural, our school is in a much different place to how it had been in the not too distant past. I am confident the many systems and procedures that are now in place will ensure things run smoothly until more permanent arrangements can be confirmed.

I spoke to your children about me leaving during our assembly this morning and explained my reasons for this. As always, they made me smile with some of their comments and views! Some asked me if I could stay, if I could keep in touch, asked if the new head teacher would be a man or woman and would they be nice. My favourite question was what would I do with the thing around my neck when I left (my ID badge!!) I explained the situation, reassured them and answered their questions. I also reminded them not to be concerned about change and of the positive things change can bring.

Your children are simply wonderful and are the main reason my time at Aycliffe Village has been so special. I will treasure all the memories I have of time spent with them and will miss them all dearly.

With my very best wishes

Mrs Helen Sutherland

Head Teacher