

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



11th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share the news that I have made the difficult decision to resign from my position as Headteacher of Prior's Mill CE Primary School.

I appreciate that this decision will be surprising given the relatively short amount of time I have been here. At the end of last year, an opportunity arose for me to consider working for a local charity. Having never worked anywhere other than in schools, I was surprised to feel drawn to the idea of doing something so completely different and gave it some serious thought. This is my twenty-seventh year of teaching and I have absolutely loved the vast majority of all those years. I have worked in five schools across four local authorities and I've just completed my tenth year of headship. I think navigating life in the pandemic, as we all have, has given me a push to think about life differently and so after talking with my family, I have made the decision to take up this opportunity and change direction.

The Governing Body have very generously agreed to a shorter notice period than is typical for Headteachers which means I will be leaving the school at February half term.

Prior's Mill is a wonderful school with fantastic children, families and staff and I am sure that school will continue to develop and thrive under new leadership in the coming months and years. Governors, the local authority and the diocese are working closely together on the recruitment process for appointing a new headteacher. Miss Huddart will assume the role of Acting Headteacher whilst this process is undertaken and she will be supported by the wider school leadership team and advisers from the local authority and diocese.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher

Our Chair of Governors, Mr Kevin Cooper, has asked that I share this statement on behalf of the governing body with you all:

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure the above letter will come a shock and will sadden many of you as it has myself and my fellow governors when she broke the news to us. Mrs Malbon is a first class Headteacher and we were delighted when she joined us. In the time she has been with us she has done much to not only deal with a global pandemic in school but at the same time work closely with the Governing Body, the Diocese, Local Authority and Parents/Carers to improve the education for all our children as well as working on improvements in school such as the curriculum, vision & values and the physical environment in these very difficult times. She has achieved much in a short period of time with us and though we are saddened to lose her, we fully respect her decision and wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Since Mrs Malbon informed me of her decision I have met with the Governing Body, the Local Authority, Diocese and Miss Huddart to ensure the running of the school carries on seamlessly in the coming weeks

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



while we recruit a new Headteacher, a process we hope to have concluded by the start of the summer term. I will again write to you to inform you of a new Headteacher as soon as we have news of the appointment.

The school is strong and resilient with excellent staff. We have robust budgets, plans and systems in place to ensure a smooth transition. Miss Huddart is a highly capable and respected colleague who has been at Priors Mill for nearly a decade and I know will do an excellent job in assuming the role of Acting Headteacher. I am sure you will all continue to support her as we will.

Kind Regards,

Mr Kevin Cooper
Chair of Governors