

Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am not usually lost for words when I need to write to our school community - as those of you who read my weekly blog testify - however the letter I write today has been a challenge.

I am writing to let you know that, at the end of this academic year, I will be retiring from Whitehill, having had the enormous privilege of serving as headteacher since 2013.

Whitehill was established in 1969, and I remain quietly proud to be only the fourth person to have held the role of headteacher in its history. It is a position I have never taken for granted, and one I will look back on with immense fondness. Those of you who have been on a school tour with me will know that I often mention that the school and I are the same age - although, as I regularly admit, Whitehill has worn the years considerably better than I have.

Deciding that this would be my final year has not been easy, and it has come after much thought and reflection. What has made that decision possible is knowing that Whitehill is in such a strong place: a school with a clear sense of purpose, a dedicated and talented staff team, wonderful children, and a supportive parent community who care deeply about the school and its values.

The governing body will now begin the task of recruiting Whitehill's next headteacher, and I have every confidence that they will appoint someone who will build on what is already strong, safeguard what makes Whitehill special, and lead the school forward with ambition and care.

While this letter marks the beginning of my final chapter at Whitehill, it is very much not a winding down. There is still much to look forward to including several class assemblies, a residential or two, a Year 6 production and of course, sports day to name but a few.

I intend to make the most of the next two terms — enjoying school life, continuing to reflect in my weekly blogs, and spending time with pupils, staff and parents, whether in classrooms, corridors or on the playground.

Finally, I want to thank you — sincerely — for the trust, encouragement and support you have shown over the years. Working in partnership with families has been one of the most rewarding parts of my time as headteacher, and it is something that has made Whitehill the community it is today.

This news will be shared with the pupils before the end of the school day today, by their class teachers, so that they are also aware.

Kind regards,

Steve Mills
Headteacher

