Ecclesall Primary School
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Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Ecclesall Primary School,

I am writing to share some personal news with you. After much thought and reflection, I have decided to take early retirement from my role as Headteacher of Ecclesall Primary School, and my final day in post will be 31st August 2027. I have made this difficult decision as I want to spend more time with my family and take advantage of opportunities that retirement will bring.

Making this decision has not been easy. Having had the privilege of serving as Headteacher at Ecclesall for the past 17 years, the school has become such a huge part of my life and holds a very special place in my heart.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of wonderful children and their families. Watching children grow in confidence, develop their talents and leave us ready for the next stage of their journey has been one of the greatest joys of my career. I feel incredibly fortunate to have shared so many important moments with generations of Ecclesall families, and I am deeply grateful for the trust, support and kindness that parents and carers have shown me throughout my time here.

I have also been privileged to work alongside an exceptional team of staff whose dedication, professionalism and care for children make Ecclesall such a special place. Together, we have celebrated successes, overcome challenges and built a school community of which we can all be immensely proud.

I would like to thank our governors, led by our Chair of Governors, Kevin Corke, and Jim Dugmore, CEO, alongside other Headteacher colleagues across Peak Edge Trust, for their support and commitment to ensuring the best possible education for our children. Their guidance and partnership have played an important part in the school's success.

Although retirement brings exciting opportunities for the future, there is no denying that leaving Ecclesall will be incredibly difficult. This school has been far more than a workplace to me. It has been a community, a second home and a place filled with remarkable people who have enriched my life in countless ways.

I wanted to share this news with you early because I feel it is important that our school community has clarity and reassurance about the future. Over the coming months, the Governing Body and Peak Edge Trust will begin the process of appointing a new Headteacher. By providing significant notice, we will be able to ensure a smooth and well-planned transition, and I will work closely with governors, the Trust and my successor so that Ecclesall continues to go from strength to strength.

Peak Edge is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with company number 11650747.

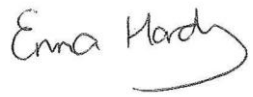
Most importantly, I want to reassure you that my commitment to Ecclesall remains as strong as ever. I remain wholly dedicated to leading the school through the remainder of my time here and ensuring that every child continues to receive the very best education, care and opportunities.

Thank you for the support, encouragement and friendship you have shown me over the past 17 years. It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve this wonderful community. While there is still much work and many exciting events ahead before I leave, I wanted to express how grateful I am to have played a small part in the lives of so many children and families.

Ecclesall will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I will always feel incredibly proud to have been its Headteacher. I am confident that the school has a bright and successful future ahead, and I know that the values, spirit and sense of community that make Ecclesall so special will continue to flourish for many years to come.

The Ecclesall Primary School Governing Body will keep you updated on plans for appointing a new Headteacher over the coming months. The school remains in a strong position, and governors and Peak Edge Trust are committed to securing excellent leadership for the future.

With warmest regards,



Emma Hardy

Headteacher

Ecclesall Primary School