

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

I wanted to write to say goodbye.

I will be retiring on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> after 31 years in teaching and 17 years at Margaret McMillan. I wanted to thank you all for making "Maggie Macs" without doubt, the best school I have ever worked at. I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to be your Headteacher and I'm grateful for all that we have achieved over the years. Margaret McMillan is a wonderful school, and it has been a real privilege to lead such an amazing organisation. I will miss working with such a dedicated and inspirational staff team and such vibrant and talented children.

I have been privileged to work alongside and be supported by a superb leadership team and wonderful teaching and associate staff, who share my passion for ensuring that we give every child the best possible start to their lives – both academic and pastoral. We endeavour to be true to our motto, *Inspiration, Aspiration and Determination* and the children and families at Margaret McMillan have inspired me every day.

I have so many fond memories over the years. Most of all I will really miss the children; seeing them grow and learn has made me smile every day. They are a real credit to the partnership that we have all created. I know from talking to parents and from those who come back a visit us, that we have contributed to the development of the most amazing young people – people that Bradford, West Yorkshire and the Country can be truly proud of.

I will remember the many special celebrations, visits and opportunities over the years and the hard work of our staff to make sure we provide the very best we can. There have been so many proud moments; the way we all pulled together during the covid pandemic, being invited to join the national Open university research pilot on Reading for Pleasure in 2021 and attending an education forum at Buckingham Palace in recognition of our commitment to outdoor learning, being but a few. More recently, being awarded the Healthy Minds Chartermark for pupil wellbeing, achieving Elkkan Communication Friendly school status and winning the Active School Award 2023.

I would like to thank the Local Governing Board and the Priestley Academy Trust who have supported me and the school at every step of our journey.

As I have said before, headteachers are only temporary custodians of schools – I have tried to leave MMPS stronger than when I joined. My leaving is made easier because I know I have left the school in safe hands. Mr Walker will be the New Headteacher from January 2024 alongside Mrs Hodge and Mrs Johnson as Deputy Head teachers. I wish them every success and I know the school will go from strength to strength under their stewardship.

It has been a real privilege to serve at Margaret McMillan and it will always have a special place in my heart.



Lorraine Martin  
Headteacher

