

1st December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a little over 21 years at Arbury Primary School, we will be saying goodbye to Kathy Whiting at the end of this term. Saying goodbye will be very sad for the school, but the reason for her leaving is a happy one which should be celebrated. Mrs Whiting is retiring and will be starting a new chapter in life, full of travel, adventure and lots of bike riding. She is keen that you all know this is not because she is not happy or that she doesn't still love her job.

This news of Mrs Whiting's retirement will come as a shock to many of you, but let me reassure you, it is something which we have been preparing for as this is such a critical role in school. At times like this, we benefit again from such an experienced and committed staff. We are delighted to be promoting Sophie Morris and Kate Dowdall to Assistant Headteachers from January 2022.

Sophie Morris has been shadowing Mrs Whiting this term in readiness to lead the KS1 team from January. Kate Dowdall will continue to teach in year 6, before being released from class in September.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Kathy for the contribution she has made to the school over her time here as an outstanding teacher and, more recently, in her role as Assistant Headteacher looking after KS1. Her impact on our school has been huge and I feel privileged to have worked alongside her. The school is a happier, more inclusive and kinder place to be because of her daily impact on school life. We will all miss her very much.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to say your own goodbyes to Kathy on the playground over the coming weeks and make sure you wish her very well on the exciting adventures she has already planned for 2022.

Yours

Ben Tull
Headteacher
Arbury Primary School