

Wednesday 25 May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Change to the leadership of Airedale Junior and Airedale Infant Schools – September 2022

We would like to inform you of a change to the leadership of both Airedale Junior and Airedale Infant schools from September 2022. After having the privilege of being the Headteacher at both schools for a number of years, working alongside an amazing set of individuals, Mrs Robinson will be moving into a trust-wide role, leading on School Improvement across all of our primary schools. She therefore will remain employed by the trust and will continue to work with both schools, as well as with Oyster Park Primary Academy, to support their ongoing improvements.

Trustees have ensured a rigorous and lengthy process to find our next executive Headteacher who will continue the excellent work already done by Mrs Robinson and her team, and lead both the Junior and the Infant school. We are delighted to say that we have appointed Ms Kirsten Mckechnie, who will join us in September 2022. She is currently a very successful Headteacher in Doncaster and will bring with her a wealth of experience and a real passion to make a difference to the lives of the young people in our communities.

The journey that both schools have been on over the past few years has been a hugely successful one and Mrs Robinson is rightly very proud of all that has been achieved. Airedale Junior School secured its first 'Good' Ofsted grading in December 2017 after many years and a 'Good' grading for Airedale Infants under the new framework in November 2019, were both highlights that she will treasure! The consistently high quality of teaching and learning as well as the enrichment experiences provided for all the children ensures that each one is able to achieve their full potential, can thrive in a safe and happy environment and will be equipped to embrace the future prepared for whatever it may bring. This could not have been achieved without the expertise and dedication of the staff who have worked alongside Mrs Robinson and she considers it an honour to have worked with them and your children. All have embraced the many challenges that have presented themselves over the years, which has resulted in the schools being as highly regarded as they are today. Parents and carers speak very highly of our schools within the community and we would like to thank you all for your continued support.

We understand that this may be unsettling for you as parents and carers, and for your children, (who will be informed over the course of the day tomorrow), however the change in leadership is simply the beginning of an even brighter future for the schools, with the significant improvements made, continuing. We want to reassure you that all messages given and the transition from one Headteacher to the next, will be upbeat and as smooth a process as possible. We will ensure that you and your children are communicated with and that you have an opportunity, early on, to meet Ms Mckechnie.

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She is very keen to do this! In the meantime, Mrs Robinson and I would very much appreciate your support in reassuring your children. Until the end of the academic year, Mrs Robinson remains their Headteacher and will continue to do all she can for each and every pupil.

Although Mrs Robinson has the remainder of this summer term left as Headteacher, on behalf of myself, trustees and the Academy Council, I would like to publicly thank her for her commitment and determination to make both schools the best they can be. She has worked tirelessly over many years to give pupils and staff the best and leaves two schools in a fantastic position to become even greater.

Yours faithfully,

E Fairhurst
Chief Executive Officer

K Robinson
Headteacher Airedale Junior & Infants

