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Tuesday 10th January 2017

Dear Children, Parents and Staff

You will already know that Miss Holmes will be leaving our school at the end of the Summer term. I am aware that this has been a very difficult decision for her but I can understand that after thirty years of intense work in education, she wants to spend time with her family.

We will be sad to say farewell to Carolyn at the end of the year, after a journey of fifteen years of uninterrupted leadership. She has led our school through many changes – from new refitted classrooms to two major building projects; through dozens of statutory changes and ways schools are expected to be run, organised and created learning environments; and has mentored several teachers who are now occupying headships in other schools. Carolyn's contribution has been unquestionable and we are all proud of her legacy.

What happens now?

Carolyn will continue to lead us through the next two terms with the over-riding priority to preserve the well-being of the school community and in particular, the children.

The Governing Body is ably guided by both the Diocese of Guildford and the Local Authority in the process of appointing a new head teacher and it includes people with experience in areas which will be important in the next few months. We are fortunate to have several established and long-standing Governors and staff throughout the school.

The first step for the Governing Body is to form a small Governors' team which becomes a 'head teacher's appointment group'. This group will meet very regularly and there will be a great deal of work to be done in consultation with the Diocese and the Local Authority. The group will also be consulting widely over the next few weeks with staff, PTA, parents and, of course, the children.

The Vice Chair of Governors, Simon Taylor, will be leading the appointment group as he is closely involved in education throughout the Diocese as well as being a former senior teacher himself. Conversations to move the appointment process forward as quickly as possible have already taken place with key people in the Local Authority and the Diocese. Although Carolyn is staying for another two terms, we want to take the time to find someone who is going to continue Carolyn's legacy by 'standing on the shoulders of giants'. Carolyn has very kindly offered to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

Farewell

We will have the opportunity to say goodbye to Carolyn at the end of the Summer Term but for now, the leadership and vision of the school continues in her safe hands with an excellent and highly committed team, with special mention of Mrs Barker's leadership and her continued support for Carolyn.

I will write again when there is more to share, of course. In the meantime, let's continue to build a school where our children are prepared for the many changes they'll experience in their lives, because they will know that 'to every thing there is a season...'.

Yours faithfully

Javier Bajer
Chair of Governors

