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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
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DL17 8QY



9/12/2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to update you on a number of changes taking place after the Christmas break both within the Trust and within our school.

Many of you will know that Cleves Cross Primary School was the founding member of Cleves Cross Learning Trust, more than 8 years ago. Since then, the Trust has grown and, more recently, we have begun working with other schools through both partnership agreements and the provision of school-to-school support. To enable the Trust to continue to strengthen, and to ensure the continuation of the best possible educational provision for our children here at Cleves Cross and our community, I have worked with the Trust Board and our Local Governing Body to restructure the leadership team.

As a result, from January 2022, I will no longer be the Head Teacher of Cleves Cross Primary School and Christine Brentnall will now step into that role for at least the remainder of this academic year. I will however continue to work with the school as the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust. This will mean that I will work closely with Mrs Brentnall and the staff and leaders at Cleves Cross, and also across the other schools within our Trust. I am delighted that I am able to continue working with the children, parents and wider community of Cleves Cross, as I have been doing for over 20 years. It will be in a different role, however I am excited to be able to move on to the challenges and opportunities ahead for us all. I know that Mrs Brentnall and the whole staff team will continue to provide the very best educational experiences for our Cleves Cross children and I will work closely with the team moving forward and over the coming years to ensure this is the case.





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There are also other changes across our school from January. We are delighted to welcome back Mr Jonathan Hornsby to take on the role of Deputy Head Teacher, and he will be working alongside Mr Blood in Year 6. Mr Hornsby has worked at Cleves Cross previously and has since gained further experience in both teaching and leadership positions at other schools over the past 8 years. I am sure he will quickly re-establish himself into our team and I know that he is looking forward to returning to Cleves Cross. We are unfortunately saying goodbye to Mrs Claydon who has been a valuable and dedicated member of our school team – and especially our Year 6 group, for over 7 years. We wish her the very best of luck as she moves on to new challenges.

Many of you will already be aware that Mrs Hilton is planning to start her well-earned retirement from teaching very soon. Plans were that she would leave us next week and begin 2022 with newfound freedoms! There has been a slight change to her plans and she is now going to stay with us in Year 1 until February half-term. We have already recruited Mrs Hilton's replacement and look forward to welcoming Mrs Jill Stamper to our school after February half-term. Mrs Stamper can't wait to join our team and brings with her several years of Key Stage 1 teaching experience.

Finally, we are also saying farewell and wishing good luck to Miss Bousfield who has been teaching our Year 2 class on a temporary basis following the unfortunate departure of Miss Parkin due to ill health. We know that many parents and children will be sorry to see Miss Bousfield leaving us as she has built up strong relationships with the class during her short time with us. The challenges that we have all faced in school due to the pandemic over the last 2 years, have impacted upon everyone, and we have certainly taken these enhanced needs into account when appointing the new Year 2 teacher, who will join us in January. Following a lengthy and robust recruitment procedure, we have appointed Mrs Julie Tate as our new Year 2 Class Teacher. I know that she will bring her enthusiasm, commitment, and most importantly, valuable teaching experience, to both our Year 2 children and the whole school team. I am confident that the children and parents of our Year 2 class will very quickly adapt to Mrs Tate and that the children will continue to thrive under her care. We look forward to welcoming her to our staff team.





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It certainly feels like there are many changes happening here at school over the coming weeks - and it is something that we aren't really used to here at Cleves Cross. That said, many of these developments have been planned for over a significant period of time, and all involved have worked extremely hard to ensure that the plans we have been able to put in place have the very best interest of our children at their heart.

I am sure that the Cleves Cross Primary and Nursery team can continue to count on your support, both in welcoming our new staff members and in supporting 'old' staff and, most importantly, our children, as we step into a new era in 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my personal thanks for the support and appreciation I have received from many of you over the past 18 years as Head Teacher – a position that I feel very privileged and proud to have held. I look forward to our continued relationship as the School and Trust goes from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Lazenby

