

OUR DEPUTY HEADTEACHER, MRS WARBURTON IS LEAVING – A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER:

As previously notified, Mrs Warburton will be retiring from her role as Deputy Headteacher at the end of this term, after 44 years of service to the children of Stacksteads, over 20 years of those as Deputy Headteacher at Holy Trinity.

Many of you will have been taught by her, or will have had her teach your children, and will be well aware of the tremendous contribution that she has made to the lives of the children of the school.

Mrs Warburton was one of the first appointments I made after becoming Headteacher of Holy Trinity. I have appointed many truly excellent members of staff since then, but making Mrs Warburton Deputy Headteacher of the school is the single most important and significant appointment that I ever made. She has been instrumental in working with me to lead the school forward during this time and through countless periods of change and challenge.

I, her colleagues, the parents and most of all the children who have attended Holy Trinity owe her a huge debt of thanks.

Mrs Warburton's relationship with the school will be continuing, as she has accepted the invitation of the Governing Board to become a co-opted governor of the school. In addition, I am hopeful that she will be spending some time in school in the Summer Term providing intervention and support work for children.

J. ASPIN
HEADTEACHER

COVID-19 UPDATE:

The first week back has been successfully completed and the children have settled back into school routines very well.

Please remember that your child should not attend school if someone in your household, or someone that they have had close contact with, has Covid-19 symptoms and is either booked to have a P.C.R. Test or is waiting for the results.

If your child is confirmed as being a close contact with someone who has tested positive then they must self-isolate for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided to any children finding themselves in this situation. Please contact your child's teacher on the year group email address to let them know, if Remote Learning is needed.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have supported the procedures and rules that we have had to put in place to try to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Please keep doing this.

Unfortunately, there was an unpleasant incident on Thursday morning when a car was deliberately driven between the barriers at the end of the lane by a person bringing a child to school. This person clearly felt that their personal convenience was more important than the safety of the parents and children walking down the lane. Their comment to the staff operating the safety barrier confirmed their selfish reasons. This dangerous incident is being investigated.

It is a well-worn phrase, but we are all in this together. Please put the needs of everyone in the school and local community before your personal views and needs – as virtually every other parent, grandparent and family member is doing. The more we do that, the sooner we will be out of restrictions.

TERRY HASLAM-JONES:

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death this week, of Terry Haslam-Jones. Terry was a former parent of the school and was a headteacher in Accrington prior to his retirement. Since then, he worked tirelessly for the people of Stacksteads on many voluntary projects and was dedicated to improving the lives of its residents, latterly as a Councillor.

Terry was a great supporter of Holy Trinity School and recognised the work we do in supporting the local community. The whole of Stacksteads has lost a true champion with his untimely passing. Our condolences and thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.

SUMMER TERM STAFFING UPDATE:

In light of Mrs Warburton's retirement, the Governing Board of the school have asked our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Burns, to take on the role of Deputy Headteacher, and Mrs Gorman to become Assistant Headteacher, for the interim period pending decisions about permanent appointments to the roles.

These will come into effect from the start of the Summer Term.

YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT UPDATE:

At the moment Government regulations continue to forbid overnight school visits and there is no sign of the bubble requirements being altered. If this continues for the remainder of the school year then this year's Residential Visit to North Wales will have to be cancelled.

Hopefully, in line with the Road Map out of Lockdown, there will be a relaxation of the regulations around school visits as we progress through the Summer Term. Clearly, the national picture on Covid-19 infection rates etc. will determine what happens.

We intend to wait until the last possible moment before making a decision on the Residential Visit. The situation will be reviewed leading up to the Summer half-term at the end of May, in light of the regulations that are in place at that time, and the likelihood of any further changes before July.

We will also have to take into account any differences in rules that may be in place in Wales, which has its own Covid-19 regulations. Basically we need both England and Wales to allow overnight school visits to enable the visit to go ahead. This will only happen if Covid-19 infection rates are low.

Parents of children who have places on the visit will be asked their views on whether they would want their child to attend the Residential Visit, even if it were to go ahead.

School closes on Friday 26th March for the Easter Holiday. It will open again on Monday 12th April. The usual bubble start and finish times will apply on both dates.