

Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School
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Headteacher: Mrs H. Stokes
Chair of Governors: Mrs C.Knott

24th January 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

I began working at Waterthorpe Infant School as Deputy Headteacher in 1997 and have been Headteacher since 2000. During that time the school has joined up with the Nursery to become a Nursery Infant School, gone through several very positive Ofsted Inspections and has supported Emmanuel Junior School through a difficult time prior to them becoming an Academy.

After 20 wonderful years as Headteacher I have taken the decision to retire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, children, families and governors for being so supportive and fantastic to work with over the years. I know that I couldn't possibly have worked at a more caring and friendly school.

The staff at Waterthorpe are such a dedicated team. Each and every one of them cares very deeply about the school, the children and their families. They all work exceptionally hard to continue making Waterthorpe a special place to be and they constantly strive for improvement. They are always caring towards the children and each other, doing their very best to ensure that all children feel safe and happy in school.

The children, past and present are all very precious. They are polite, friendly and kind; working hard to learn new things and to share those things that they have done at home. I shall miss the smiles, the hugs and the eager enthusiasm that I see in their faces every day. Over the years there have been many children who I have worked closely with, because they have been finding things difficult, and these have taught me many things about tolerance and understanding, and have helped me grow as a person.

Learning to read, write and be numerate are all very important for our children and we never stop working hard on these skills. Education policies have frequently changed and some have gone full circle since I started teaching here. At Waterthorpe however, we have always believed that the most important thing for our children is to feel safe, secure and happy in their environment. This ensures that they are ready for learning and set up to grow into good citizens. It has been such a pleasure to help develop a school that nurtures children so well, and offers so many exciting opportunities, such as trips out, visitors coming into school, family workshops and after-school clubs, to engage them. I know that this will continue long after I am gone.

When I was recruited to work at Waterthorpe, parental engagement was a key area that I was asked to work on. This has been a driving factor in all my work here, with the support of a staff team who all believe in your important role. I have been lucky to work with a wonderful set of parents and families who care deeply about their children and want them to do the best they can. It has been a privilege to get to know you and to meet new parents, a number of them were once my pupils! Thank you all for helping to make my job such a pleasure.

I would also like to thank the many governors that I have worked with over the years. Many of whom have been parents. These people take on the responsibility of over-seeing the school without pay and very little recognition. They have been supportive at difficult moments and have always put the welfare of the children first. I know the school often has governor vacancies and I would highly recommend that parents take up this rewarding opportunity to play a role in the future of the school.

Waterthorpe has been my life and I know that I am going to miss it greatly. I have many plans for the future and will be working on my children's books and will spend many more hours walking my dogs. (They are very excited!) I know that I will be invited back to visit and I look forward to the days when I can come in and just enjoy the children without having a mountain of paperwork to do in my office.

The governors have begun the process of recruiting a new headteacher. Whoever gets the job will be a very lucky person and I am sure that you will all give them the same support that you have given me. We should be able to let you know who this will be after the Easter holidays.

I wish all our children every success in their future and I am proud that I have played some small part in their development.

With the very warmest of wishes,



Helen Stokes (Headteacher)

