



The Royal High Primary School

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Thank You

You will be aware that tomorrow, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018, is my last day as Head Teacher at The Royal High Primary School.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, I commence my new position as Head Teacher, Haddington Primary School, with East Lothian Council.

I leave the Royal High Primary School with very mixed emotions; with the very happy memories from my four years at The Royal High Primary School and the excitement of the challenge that awaits me in my new position.

I have enjoyed many happy times at The Royal High Primary School, however, the prospect of merging King's Meadow Primary School and Haddington Infant School to become Haddington Primary School is a unique opportunity that interested me at this stage of my career.

A school community is made up of three components; pupils, parents and staff. The joint contributions of the three components determines the happiness and success of the school.

I take this opportunity to thank each part of the community.

Firstly, I offer my sincere thank you to the staff; teaching and non-teaching. I thank the teaching staff for their help, support, dedication and conscientious approach to teaching and learning. The teaching staff is supported by an outstanding team of Pupil Support Assistants who care for the children and support the learning and teaching. The success and effectiveness of the school also relies on the quality of the catering staff and janitorial staff. I can confirm that our lunchtime experience is of the highest quality and we have been very fortunate to have Mr. Nowakowski and now Mr. Gilhooley as our janitors.

I am always keen to avoid naming people specifically for fear of missing someone and causing some hurt. However, I must thank those in the team around me for their tremendous help, support and friendship; Eileen Forrest (retired Deputy Head Teacher), Tania Evans (present Deputy Head Teacher), Brian Cairnie (Business Manager), Diane Chapman (Administrator) and Anieka Baigan (PSA/Assistant Administrator). Without this team the job would be much more difficult.

**Conclusively, heartfelt thanks to the entire staff team.**

Secondly, I offer my sincere thank you to the parent community. I have held the head teacher post in seven schools and I can share with honesty that the parent community at The Royal High Primary School is the best I have worked with, maybe equal to that at Parsons Green

Primary School. During my four years at The Royal High Primary School, the parents have been extremely supportive, understanding, cooperative, patient and helpful. The Parent Council group, regarding operational and fund raising, has been outstanding. The ethos created, and the funds raised are the result of great efforts and commitment. The wider parent community has supported the events with great enthusiasm. Once again, I acknowledge that the Parent Council group is made up of many people, however, I offer specific thanks to Gordon and Caroline Kaye, Beverley Klein, the Salton family, Becky Entwistle, Donna Morgan, George Callaghan, Daisy Watson, Kathryn Tulloch and Tracy Goldie without whom it would not have been possible.

Finally, I acknowledge the importance and contribution to the most important part of our community, the children (pupils). It has been a pleasure to work with the pupil community. In four years I can honestly say that there have been no significant behavioural difficulties and no exclusions. The children are polite, well-mannered and enthusiastic. They have been a great source of pride when many references have been made to their conduct in the local community and beyond. I will miss them enormously.

I will take many memories with me; P.7 camps at Lagganlia, special assemblies, children using the quad, choir events at the Queen's Hall and the GLEE Choir competitions (thanks to Mrs. Belfall), P.1 induction, Scots' Nights, Christmas and Summer Fairs, Sports Days, Parent Council discos. I could list so many. I consider the most significant achievement in my time at The Royal High Primary School is the developed ethos of community and the increase of parental engagement. I observed these developments during the most satisfying events that were 'Circus Starz' and 'High School Musical'. Outstanding events.

I wish Mrs. Evans and Ms. Stewart, in their roles as Acting Head Teacher and Acting Deputy Head Teacher, the very best for this short interim arrangement. I wish Mrs. Hazel-Dunn, newly appointed head teacher, my best wishes and good luck for a happy time at The Royal High Primary School. I am sure Mrs. Hazel-Dunn will drive the Royal High Primary School onwards to even greater achievements.

I am presently doing everything possible to ensure there is a seamless 'handover' with continuity. To support this, my e mail address will be 'live' for two weeks following my departure. In the event that there are any outstanding issues to be addressed, please do not hesitate to e mail me at [willie.french@rovalhigh-pri.edin.sch.uk](mailto:willie.french@rovalhigh-pri.edin.sch.uk)

*Finally, I wish everyone in the school community a happy, healthy and successful future. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Royal High Primary School community.*

*Thank you to everyone for their kind wishes and generous thoughts.*

*Please feel most welcome to stay in contact and I hope that our 'paths may cross again' in future.*

*The success and effectiveness of every school is based firmly on relationships. The necessity for all parts of the school community to 'work together' is vitally important. The word 'love' is rarely used in school vision and aims statements. It is very important. Please afford everyone respect and 'show some 'love'.*

Willie French (Head Teacher)