

FARINGDON INFANT SCHOOL

Faringdon Learning Trust

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Our Vision for FIS –

Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow

Wednesday 16th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing for what may well be the final time before half term and for my last time as Head Teacher of Faringdon Infant School. With just a couple of days to go before I leave and move on to my new role, I wanted to write and thank you as a community of parents, carers and families for the wonderful support you have offered over the last 5 years, while I have been part of your school community. The relationships which exist between our school and our families have been so important to me. This is partly because of the age of our children here at FIS, but also because those positive relationships enable us to work together to offer the best support for your children whatever the changes, and events. Thank you for the time you have taken to speak to us, to attend events, to read the many letters and messages, to commit to those relationships too. I am truly grateful.

It has been an extraordinary time to be part of the school. Within a few months of me arriving, the school had its Ofsted inspection; in the couple of years which followed we had to move Year Two children back onto this site, and move our whole Reception setting to the Junior School site in order to accommodate the ever-growing numbers of children; within a year, we had to move everyone back to this site after the Junior school needed all their classrooms back! We have been through some incredibly difficult times of painful loss and grief, where the strength of a community like this one has really come into its own; and then of course, a wave of global pandemic challenged us all to find new ways to manage and learn!

Throughout all of this, it has been my absolute privilege to stand at our gates in the mornings as often as possible, and to greet so many smiling faces! It allows me daily chances to engage with families so that you know who I am and where I am, and your children get to know that when you come to school at FIS, you are always **so** welcome when we are standing outside, waiting to greet you and say good morning!

Sometimes, our youngest children, who have not yet got the measure of what kind of thing a Head Teacher does, will ask me which class I am with. I am able to answer that I get to be in every class and see everyone! How lucky am I?! They have been the very **best** children to work and play with and to learn from every day.

I am exceptionally proud of this school and of my incredible staff team here. I am inspired every day by their skill in the classrooms, their compassion in each interaction, their

dedication to inclusion and nurture, their extraordinary work ethic, their optimism, resilience and good humour in the most difficult times, and their support for one another and for me. I simply cannot thank them enough. I wouldn't dream of stealing them away from you, but I do wish I could wrap them all up and take them with me!

I will be leaving on Friday with tremendous sadness. Our school has been such a huge part of my life for years now and I can't yet imagine life without it. I have every confidence that FIS will continue to thrive in Mr Jones's capable hands and will transition to become a fabulous primary school at the new Folly View site. I wish everyone in our school community every happiness for the exciting journey ahead.

All best wishes,

Mrs Sally Robins