



Mrs Lesley Hughes
Headteacher

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With God, all things are possible.

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I have taken the very difficult decision, after long deliberation, to leave SMA at the end of this academic year. The decision to do this has been one of the hardest decisions that I have ever had to make. Personal family circumstances changed for me back in February of last year, and so it is for family reasons only that I have come to my decision.

I have worked my whole teaching career of twenty-four years at SMA and so I can't begin to try to explain how sad I will be to leave. It is such a huge part of my life and I will miss every bit of it. It is for this reason that I will not be seeking a Headship anywhere else – there is nowhere quite like SMA, no other school compares. Instead, I will be relocating and delving into pastures new outside the remit of education.

I have enjoyed my time at SMA immensely and I am so proud of our many accomplishments over the years both as a class teacher and more recently, as the Headteacher. I must take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support, kind words and encouragement over the years, they have been very much appreciated. It has been a joy to teach our pupils, watch them grow up and in many cases, after some years, see them send their own children to SMA. How amazing is that!

I must thank all the staff for their unfaltering dedication and incredible hard work, without them we wouldn't have made such a difference at SMA. Education has changed dramatically over the years and now the job of working in a school is harder than ever but never any less enjoyable. The dedication of our SMA staff team is second to none; no matter what the occasion, challenge or government initiative, they have always been of the mind-set to give it 100% as everything they do is carried out with the very best interests of our pupils at heart.

The SMA family; the children, staff, parents and carers, wider community and the Board of Governors, are quite simply incredible and the best to work with. Words cannot express how much I have really appreciated working with them all over the years.

It is an honour and a privilege to be the Headteacher of SMA- a job I have always been so proud of, and dedicated to. This total dedication to the SMA family will remain until the day I leave (and for many years after that I am sure!). I know that a change of Headteacher can be unsettling and so I can assure you that I will work with Father Peter, the Governing Body and the new Headteacher, once appointed, to ensure a smooth transition is achieved. The most important thing for SMA is that we continue to be guided by our vision; **Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Therefore, by faith and work, we will be the change we want to see.**

For now, however, it is business as usual, well, as usual as it can be during another lockdown!

With my thanks, as always, for your support,

Lesley Hughes
Headteacher



2019-2022

Truth - Fairness - Justice - Joy