



25th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to share some bittersweet news regarding a member of staff who will be leaving us. At the end of May, our site manager, Gary Stoner, will be hanging up his tool belt and heading into a well-deserved retirement.

Gary has been an integral part of our school for an incredible 27 years. For nearly three decades, he has worked behind the scenes and often at the very heart of school life to ensure our environment is safe, welcoming, and ready for our children to learn. From the early morning unlocks to the late-night event finishes, Gary's dedication to the staff, parents, and generations of children has been nothing short of exemplary.

It is difficult to imagine the school without Gary's familiar face, and I know he will be missed immensely by us all. He has given so much of himself to our community, and while we are sad to see him go, we are also incredibly happy for him. Gary is very much looking forward to a long, happy, and, most importantly, relaxing retirement.

To ensure a seamless transition for our school, I am also pleased to introduce Steve Watkinson, who will be taking over the role of site manager following Gary's retirement. Steve has already joined us this term and will be working closely alongside Gary over the coming months. By shadowing Gary until he leaves in May, Steve will have the best possible start in learning the ropes from the very person who knows our school building inside and out. We are delighted to have Steve on board and are confident that this period of handover will ensure everything continues to run smoothly.

We aren't quite ready to say a final goodbye just yet, and we will certainly be finding ways to celebrate Gary's legacy closer to his departure date. However, I wanted to share this news with you now. We are looking for ideas on where to place the bronze statue we have commissioned.

Best wishes,

Jo Sawyer
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