

24 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It's hard to believe that another academic year is almost over. It has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, but I'm pleased that in school we have all got through it safely with learning continuing the best way it could, with your children being (and feeling) safe.

### **Ofsted Reports and Covid**

Central Primary School has had two monitoring inspections since Christmas (one during Covid) which are available to view online, with both inspections being incredibly positive about actions taken with continuance of appropriate provision for our children. The staff and governors have worked incredibly hard to ensure continuity as the children come first. The Covid Ofsted inspection may be considered as being applicable for both Central and Bothal as both schools have the same policies and procedures, so everyone can feel assured that the best was being done for all across the partnership. Sadly, we are still under Covid constraints - fingers and toes crossed for a better Autumn term!

Speaking of which...

### **Staff leaving the schools for pastures new this summer:**

- Mrs L Gentry (Central lower). Mrs Gentry started her career at Central in September 2015 and is moving on to lead a department in an outstanding school in Morpeth.
- Miss J Abernethy (Bothal upper). Miss Abernethy joined Central in 2009 and is relocating to a new teaching post in Scotland, having worked at both Central and Bothal schools.
- Mrs Z Hodgson (Bothal lower). Mrs Hodgson joined us in 2015 and is looking to pursue personal interests from September also having worked at both schools.
- Mrs N Wendt (Central upper). Mrs Wendt has worked two full terms with us, covering maternity leave, helping learning and supporting a class.
- Mrs G Downie (Bothal lower). Mrs Downie has worked on the same site since 2000 and is going to enjoy more of her personal interests as she is retiring!
- Mr A Roberts (Bothal and Central). I too will be retiring, having been a Headteacher (and then Executive Principal) for 22 years within Ashington and from the outset of the Ashington Learning Partnership. I will be pursuing other academic interests from September, but I'm sure I'll be about at some point. The ALP will be in excellent hands from September with Miss Louise Hall (currently Head of School) being appointed by the Governing Body to take over. She has worked within our trust schools for 16 years, supported other schools on behalf of the local authority and advises other educational organisations outside the region.

We have engaged many additional supporting staff during Covid times who will be leaving also - our very best wishes and gratitude go to them all for supporting our children so well during the difficult times.

**Staff joining the partnership from September:**

- Miss S Lowes
- Miss C Watson
- Mr W Darragh
- Miss E Forbes

They are all very enthusiastic and can't wait to start!

We also have three staff who will be on maternity leave - we wish them the very best with their young families over the coming months.

- Mrs M Marshall
- Mrs R Sweeney
- Mrs L Gunn continues to be on maternity

I will always be immensely proud of the children and schools within the ALP, and like all staff have endeavoured to be "the best I can be" for the community, but above all the children here and their aspirations. They are indeed our hope for a better future and like so often over the last 10 years or so, I look forward to hearing of their success.

Yours sincerely

*A Roberts*

Mr Roberts  
Executive Principal