



8 November 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope my letter finds you well.

I am writing to update you regarding the leadership of our school. I know you will be aware that our Headteacher Mrs James has been absent since Easter and during that time, the school has been led by Mrs Wood-Williams and Mr Beattie, ably supported by all the staff here at Lobley Hill.

I am now able to confirm, however, that Mrs James will not be returning to Lobley Hill Primary School. Mrs James has been part of our Lobley Hill community for over two decades and during that time, supported countless children and families with their academic and pastoral provision and helped to provide a safe and happy environment for our children. It has been my pleasure to have worked alongside Mrs James for much of that time and I am sure you will all join me in thanking her for her many years of service and wishing her every success and happiness in the future.

Mrs James has asked that I include a personal statement from her to you all, which I am very happy to do below:

"It is with great sadness that I am writing to let you know that after almost 24 years I will not be returning to Lobley Hill Primary School, it is time for me to start a new chapter in my life. During my time at Lobley Hill, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with the most wonderful children and families and created memories which I will treasure.

I would like to thank the staff who I have worked with over the years for their support, dedication, passion and friendship and Governors who have supported me in my various roles.

I wish my successor every success knowing that they will become part of a school community which has children at its heart ensuring they get the very best start in life."

Kind regards, Mrs James

I will write to you again as soon as I can give you any further updates. In the meantime, Mr Sutherland will continue to support us in his role as Acting Headteacher.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Donovan

Councillor Catherine Donovan
Chair of Governors