



**Cottingley  
Village**  

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**Primary School**

Headteacher: Mrs N M Geale  
CEO: Mr Duncan Jacques CBE

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been very grateful for your support, warm welcome back and encouraging words since I returned to work just before Christmas. It has been so lovely to get back into school and settle back into the role that I love. Seeing the children and listening to their news always makes my day a great day, they are the true ambassadors of our school, and I am very proud of them all.

It has been my honour and privilege to be the Headteacher of Cottingley Village Primary School. I have instigated and witnessed changes to the infrastructure, culture and ethos of the school which has resulted in great facilities for the children and staff to learn and work in. We have a very positive reputation in our community and beyond with our quality curriculum, learning focus and above national results across the school. We are proud of the relationships with our families. It has always been very important to us that we provide a warm family atmosphere for the children. A home away from home.

It is for these reasons and many more that I have struggled to make the incredibly difficult decision to retire from Headship. In truth my recent illness has meant that I have reflected on life and what matters the most. I love my job and our school enormously, however, it's time to make a change that will support my family, in particular, my health.

I am lucky to be surrounded by a very able and effective team of colleagues and a Trust, who I will miss hugely but I know are able to lead the school incredibly well when I leave. Exceed Academies Trust have been very supportive of my decision to retire from Headship, and they have kindly agreed to allow me to leave at Easter, so that I can concentrate on further improving my health. Miss Ward and Mrs Mannings will reassume the shared posts of Acting Co-Headteachers, commencing 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and will remain in post until a suitable permanent replacement can be appointed.

I know that I am making the right decision, but I also know that I will miss everyone at Cottingley, and leaving will be a very emotional goodbye for me. The school has been my professional home for almost 17 years. I shall genuinely miss catching up with all of you and seeing your children grow into the fine young people that I know they will be. One of the greatest achievements in education is witnessing the success stories as they unfold, and this is something that happens regularly in school.

To you, our lovely families, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being so supportive, encouraging, understanding and generous in your spirit and humour through the roller-coaster of life that we have shared together. It has been the greatest honour of my career to serve you and your children.

With kind regards,

Mrs N.M. Geale  
Headteacher