



Yardley Wood Community Primary School
"Learning Through Life"

Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

At the end of this term we will be saying a very sad farewell to one of our Assistant Head Teachers. Miss Blackwood will be leaving Yardley Wood Community Primary school to take up her new role as Deputy Head Teacher at Allens Croft Community Primary School after the Easter break.

Miss Blackwood has been an incredible asset to our school. It seems like yesterday that we interviewed her for role of Lead DSL, way back in April 2016. Miss Blackwood brought her experience and her foresight to this crucial role, improving systems and processes to ensure children are effectively safeguarded. She has trained staff on the wide range of safeguarding issues that children face and has worked closely with outside agencies, carrying out a role that has, at times, involved very difficult conversations and some equally difficult actions. Miss Blackwood has fulfilled this role with compassion, professionalism and resilience.

Miss Blackwood has also been our Writing Leader throughout her time here. She has implemented Talk for Writing and has worked particularly closely with Y6 to push writing standards up. She is the issuer (& enforcer) of the 'handwriting licences' and we have seen the presentation of children's writing improve alongside the content. We will also need a new 'comma cop' and 'apostrophe police' next term.

Miss Blackwood has overseen the School Council and together they have raised funds for various charities, organised school events and run competitions. The 'Buddy Benches' are the latest of these. I don't think that the school councillors, nor Miss Blackwood, will ever forget their trip to the Houses of Parliament to see democracy at work.

Most recently, Miss Blackwood has led on a project that we are trialling, aimed at lessening the financial burden that school can put on parents and families in our school. Some of those changes have been easier to make than others, but we have had very positive feedback from families who have appreciated both the intent and the impact.

Head Teacher: Mr. B.Turner
School Road, Yardley Wood, Birmingham B14 4ER
Tel: 0121 675 2456 Fax: 0121 675 5001 www.ydlywood.bham.sch.uk



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Throughout her time at YWCPS, Miss Blackwood has also worked tirelessly to improve children's attendance – another mission which is often thankless, is time consuming - but ultimately benefits the pupils at our school.

On a personal level, I have been very grateful for Miss Blackwood's support through some very challenging times. These include two successful OFSTED inspections in 2018 and 2024. Miss Blackwood has been there for the staff, parents and pupils throughout the whole Covid19 experience, starting with the first lock-down (just over 5 years ago this month) and right through our ongoing 'covid recovery.'

Miss Blackwood is a highly valued member of our Senior Leadership Team and we will miss her very much. I am certain that she will take the drive and ambition that she has shown at YWCPS into her new school. The new Head Teacher at Allens Croft will benefit from her experience and her support as their school continues on its journey. Our loss is certainly their gain.

Good luck Miss Blackwood, and thank you for all that you have done for the children, families and staff at Yardley Wood Community Primary School.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Turner".

Ben Turner