ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL, SMHL

Thursday 5th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the letter shared with you earlier today, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you personally about my decision to leave Elvington Church of England Primary School.

As you can imagine, this has not been an easy decision. I have absolutely loved being Headteacher at Elvington, and there is no doubt that the school has become a very special part of my life. Although I am excited about the opportunity ahead of me, there is also a great deal of sadness at the thought of leaving a school and community that mean so much to me.

One of the greatest privileges of being a Headteacher is getting to know the children and watching them grow, develop and achieve things they once thought were beyond them. The children at Elvington are wonderful, and they have given me so many reasons to smile and feel proud over the years. I will miss them enormously.

I have also been incredibly fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated and caring staff team. Their commitment to the children and to one another is something I have always valued; I am extremely proud of everything we have achieved together.

I would also like to thank you, as parents and carers, for the kindness, trust and support you have shown me throughout my time at Elvington. The relationships between school and home are such an important part of what makes Elvington special, and I have always appreciated the way in which we have worked together to do the very best for the children.

As things stand, a date for my departure has not yet been agreed, and I will continue in my role as Headteacher whilst the necessary arrangements are made. Please be assured that, throughout this period, my commitment to the children, staff and families of Elvington will remain exactly as it has always been.

After more than twenty years of working in and leading Church of England schools, this change also marks the end of a significant chapter in my career. It is something I have reflected on a great deal, and I know that leaving Elvington will be particularly difficult.

Elvington is a school I will always look back on with enormous affection. I will take away so many happy memories, but most importantly, I will remember the children, families and colleagues who have made my time here so rewarding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the kindness, encouragement and support you have shown me. It really does mean a great deal to me; I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a wonderful school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Buttery

"I have come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10