



10<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **End of Term Update**

As we move into the last two weeks of term, I wanted to write to you with an update of some important issues going forward.

Firstly, as many of you will know, when Mrs Fiona Smith took up post as Headteacher of Moorhead, it was always her intention that she would step down at the end of this academic year. As such, over the past few months, we have been undertaking a national recruitment exercise to appoint a successor to provide the direction, expertise and drive to continue the improvements underway at Moorhead.

We are delighted therefore to have found an excellent, experienced leader in Mrs Alexandra Beardmore, who will take up post ready for the new school year in September. She is currently Headteacher of a primary school in Cumbria, and with a wider role within the Cumbria Education Trust, Mrs Beardmore has a strong track record in school improvement. In particular, she was recently part of the senior leadership team that took a school from Special Measures to Good in just 18 months.

In interviewing her, we were impressed not only by Mrs Beardmore's educational expertise and background, but her understanding of the challenges Moorhead faces and her positive vision for the school moving forward. This half-term, she has already begun to work with Moorhead staff in order to ensure a smooth transition and to plan for the new academic year.

While we had intended Mrs Smith to continue in post for the end of term, she is currently unwell and unable to attend school as normal. Unfortunately, this means that she will be unable to return to Moorhead before the end of term. In her absence, I will continue to work closely with Deputy Head, Mr Neil White to support him in the role of Acting Headteacher until term ends. We all send our best wishes to Mrs Smith in her recovery and thank her for her considerable contributions to the school over the past two years.

Secondly, we wrote to you back in April to let you know that, while there have been some clear improvements across the school, Ofsted inspectors had not seen sufficient educational progress. Unfortunately, despite everyone's efforts, the Regional Schools Commissioner has written to us warning the school that improvements need to continue at pace, highlighting the clear challenges ahead to get educational standards at Moorhead to where they should be.

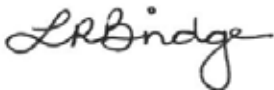
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We recognise these challenges and are committed to securing the improvements necessary; we have already implemented some additional actions over the course of the term in order to achieve this. We know that some of the measures taken to drive up standards will take time to embed consistently across the school, but we are grateful for all your support in the meantime.

Finally, we will be changing the date you receive update reports from us. These will be given to children to bring home on Monday 16 July 2018, this is prior to the parent meeting so that you have the opportunity to discuss the contents of the report with staff. The open sessions for parents will be on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 3pm, please book an appointment if you wish speak to your child's class teacher. Due to this parent session, homework club will **not** be running on **Wednesday 18 July**.

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support as we continue to do our utmost to make Moorhead the strong community school that it was always intended to be. If you have any questions or concerns during the remainder of the term, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at [post@lfadm.org.uk](mailto:post@lfadm.org.uk)

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LRBridge". The letters are cursive and connected, with a small dot above the 'i' in "Bridge".

Louise Bridge  
Primary Director