



## **Occold Primary School**

The Street, Occold, Suffolk, IP23 7PL

01379 678330

Executive Headteacher – Dr Paul Parslow-Williams

Head of School – Miss Katie Thornton

[www.occoldprimaryschool.org](http://www.occoldprimaryschool.org)

20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to let you know that I will be stepping down as Executive Headteacher at Occold Primary School so that I can spend more time in my role as a Director of Education for the All Saints Schools Trust.

I have had the privilege of serving at Occold Primary School for the past 11 years. During this time, our pupils have achieved remarkable success, and our school has won numerous awards for its innovative practices, inclusivity and the wide range of opportunities provided to our children.

As I reflect on my time here, my greatest joy has been witnessing our children grow, learn, and achieve greatness in their own personal contexts. From their first tentative steps into Reception to their confident strides as they move on to high school, each child has left an indelible mark on my heart (some have left a few grey hairs too), and I will remember them all fondly.

Our dedicated staff members have been the backbone of our school. I have seen them develop into caring and expert practitioners who, without exception, go above and beyond for our students. It makes me immensely proud to know that many of our team now support schools across the Trust in Suffolk, improving lives for countless children. Occold's impact now extends far beyond the school gates.

To our parents and the wider Occold community, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude. Your kindness, warmth, and commitment to your children's education have been the bedrock of our school's success. Whether it was supporting our school through the 'Friends of Occold', chatting informally on the playground or cheering on our children during sports days, your involvement has made a difference. Our school truly feels like a family, and I am thankful for the bonds we've formed over the years.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the steady guidance provided by our Governors and the All Saints Schools Trust, particularly our esteemed chair, Carol Peters. Her commitment to our school's vision has been invaluable. Carol's leadership and dedication have ensured that Occold Primary School remains a beacon of excellence. I am grateful for the countless hours our Governors have devoted to our community.

From September 2024, Mrs. Watts will serve as the Executive Headteacher at Occold Primary School. I'm sure many of our community remember her fondly from her time as a Head of School here a few years ago where she was instrumental in our school's

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improvement journey. She is also currently Executive Headteacher at St Peter and St Paul Primary School. This exciting development means that our schools will work more closely together moving forward. We look forward to this strengthened partnership and the positive impact it will have on both schools.

I am also pleased to announce that Miss Thornton will be continuing in the role of Head of School. She has done a fantastic job covering for Miss Rowe during her maternity leave and I am delighted that we get to keep her.

After enjoying her time as a new mother, Miss Rowe will be returning to the classroom on a part-time basis. I'm sure she will continue to spread her passion for the literary world among our students. Additionally, she will collaborate closely with Eye Primary School, sharing her expertise and contributing to the educational partnership between our institutions.

Occold Primary School will always hold a special place in my heart, and in my role as Director of Education in the trust, I will still have overarching responsibility for the school and will no doubt find excuses to drop in from time to time. I look forward to seeing our children continue to flourish under the capable leadership of Mrs. Watts and Miss Thornton.

Kindest regards,

Dr Paul Parslow-Williams (Executive Headteacher)

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