



Ripponden Junior and Infant School

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Growing Together, Reaching for the Sky

Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth

18th December 2025

Dear parents, carers and the school community,

As I say goodbye to Ripponden J&I School, I wanted to write one final time to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Being headteacher of this wonderful village school has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Even during the tough times, your children have brought pleasure, laughter and purpose to the building – through their smiles at the gate every morning, their stories, their questions and their kindness to one another and the adults. It has been a joy to watch them grow, learn and find their voices (perhaps with a bit too much volume at times!). I have been honoured to play a small part in their journey.

I am incredibly grateful for the trust you have placed in me and in the school. I have always felt supported by our families, as we work together in the best interests for all our children. This trust in us has meant more than I can say. Thank you to you all for your amazing thoughts, kind words and incredible generosity this week – I have been overwhelmed with the thoughtfulness. I will treasure each and every one and will spend time this weekend rereading all of the cards – you have truly blown me away. Thank you.

What I will remember most about my time here are the everyday moments that make a primary school so special: the assemblies, the singing, productions, sports days, trips and celebrations. The quiet chats in the corridors, and of course all the hugs!! I will carry these moments with me always. Primary school is such a special place and focussing on developing the whole child here at Ripponden really defines the ethos, and I am really proud of the whole community who live and breathe this.



As I leave, I do so knowing that Ripponden is a place filled with care, commitment and love for every child. Every member of staff, governor and child embody our Branch Out values and this is an incredible legacy to leave. The staff work tirelessly to ensure that the children are safe, happy and are encouraged to be the very best version of themselves. Governors work diligently in the background making sure that the leaders of the school are providing the very best education. I have been so fortunate to be supported by an incredible governing body – they will be hard to beat!

I am completely confident that the school will continue to grow from strength to strength under Mrs Kenny's leadership. She is the perfect lady for the job; she is so passionate about teaching and learning. Having worked closely for many years now, our shared visions have always been closely aligned. Although I will no longer be here in person, I will certainly remain in touch and look forward to following all that the school continues to achieve.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's lives. I will miss them and the community more than I can say. Ripponden will always hold a very special place in my heart.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, with lots of love and luck for the future.

L. Bamforth

Lorraine Bamforth
Headteacher (for the last time!)

