



# St John's Meads Church of England Primary School

Rowsley Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex. BN20 7XS

Tel: 01323 730255

Fax 01323 412697

Website: [www.meads.e-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.meads.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Email [office@meads.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@meads.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Alison Flynn MA. Ed

Chair of Governors: Mrs Linda Caroe

Head of School: Mr Andy Best

East Sussex County Council

Diocese of Chichester



13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may know, Mr Best came to St John's Meads as Head of School in September 2015. He was, at that time seconded for one academic year from a school in Cross in Hand where he had been the deputy head. In September 2016 he resigned from his permanent post in order to accept an offer of a fixed term (temporary) contract to continue as Head of School at St John's Meads whilst we remained in partnership with the Saxonbury Federation and All Saints and St Richards.

Last term, the Board of Governors in each partnership school decided, mutually, for a number of valid reasons, not to renew the partnership arrangement in September 2017. Our Board then agreed unanimously, that it would be in the best interests of the school to appoint a permanent Headteacher with effect from September 2017.

It is considered good career development for aspiring Headteachers to become Heads of School first, as this role provides valuable opportunities for senior leaders to develop knowledge, skills and experience to prepare for Headship. Under the guidance and mentoring of our Executive Headteacher, Mrs Flynn, Mr Best has gained significant experience in his role.

Knowing that he was on a fixed-term temporary contract, Mr Best was prudent in that he kept an open mind about his options for career progression. He was completely honest with me, as Chair of Governors, about applying for a Headteacher post in another school should a vacancy arise, as there could be no guarantee that he would be successful in our own Headteacher recruitment process.

Then, when another Headteacher vacancy was advertised, and after very careful consideration, Mr Best submitted an application to a school in Uckfield, a town he knows well from his childhood and which is much closer to his family home. Following a very rigorous interview process this week, Mr Best was offered the position of Headteacher at Rocks Park in Uckfield and has now accepted. I have duly received a letter from him in which he has tendered his resignation as Head of School at St John's Meads with effect from the end of Term 4 as Rocks Park has requested a start date for term 5.

I do appreciate that there will be an element of disappointment as many had expressed a hope that Mr Best would apply for the Headship here at St John's Meads. He has undoubtedly had a great impact on the school and made an impression on all of those he has worked with. I know that this has been a tremendously difficult decision for him to make, and I trust that the whole school community will respect his decision and accept this significant achievement as we offer him our sincere congratulations on his appointment as Headteacher at Rocks Park.

Finally, I would like to reassure you that the Board of Governors will be working closely with the Local Authority and Mrs Flynn to ensure that we have cover in place for the summer term. We are also working diligently with the Diocese and Local Authority, as our recruitment process for our new Headteacher started today, with the advert having been placed locally and nationally.

If you have any queries, then please do contact me through the school office or Clerk to Governors, as the school has requested that this isn't a subject for discussion on the school Facebook page. Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Linda Caroe - Chair of Governors