



Ian Pykett, Chair, Governing Board  
Longstone CE (VA) Primary School  
The Cross, Great Longstone  
Derbyshire DE45 1TZ

December 8 2023

Dear Parent or Carer

I am very pleased to let you know that Sophie Rawding will become Longstone School's Acting Headteacher, starting in January 2024.

We are delighted that Mrs Rawding will be returning to school in this capacity: she has been a dedicated member of staff since 2011, and our Assistant Headteacher during the three years of our Formal Collaboration with Curbar School. Parents of children in Donaldson Class will be pleased to learn that she will retain one day teaching, with the schedule consisting of Mrs Buttle from Monday to Thursday, and Mrs Rawding on Friday.

Alongside the governors, Mrs Rawding played a leadership role in developing our School's Vision and – together with all our other staff – monitored its presence throughout the curriculum and its impact on daily school life. And I hope you will all join me in congratulating her on successful completion in September 2023 of her National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), which has been invaluable in assisting her to practice and hone the essential skills and behaviours needed to lead a school effectively.

Please join us all in welcoming Mrs Rawding in this new position: we look forward to supporting her together as much as we can.

At the same time, we wish Simon Beahan the very best as he returns to being the full-time headteacher at Curbar School.

In the new year we will be commencing the process of recruiting a permanent headteacher to start in September 2024, and we are confident that we will be able to attract some very strong candidates.

In the meantime, we wish you joy and peace as you and your family look forward to the Christmas and new year festivities – in school, in your communities, and at home.

Sincerely,

Ian Pykett, Chair, Governing Board, Longstone CE (VA) Primary School  
on behalf of the governors of Longstone School.