

May 22nd 2024

Dear parents,

Re: Headteacher recruitment

When I wrote to you at the end of April, the governors and I told you that we would make it our absolute priority to recruit the right Headteacher to lead SMAS. After careful consideration, as well as professional advice, governors have decided that to give us time to reflect on what the school needs going forward, and most importantly, to recruit without any time pressure to appoint, we should initially appoint an excellent Interim Headteacher.

I am delighted to inform you that we have, this week, appointed a brilliant Interim Head, Mrs Butler, to lead the school from September. We feel extremely lucky to be welcoming Mrs Butler to SMAS and know how excited she is to be working at the school. Having recently visited, Mrs Butler was particularly impressed by the learning she saw in classrooms, the amazing relationships between staff and children, and how engaged, positive and confident the children are at St Mary and All Saints.

Mrs Butler has extensive experience in schools, including as a Headteacher, Interim Headteacher, and Deputy Headteacher. She has recent, successful experience of Ofsted, and is committed to working in a church school such as ours. Mrs Butler knows Bucks very well, having taught in the Local Authority for 20 years and being married to another Headteacher, Mr Butler at Butlers Court school; we look forward to continuing to develop strong and supportive relationships with all our local schools to the benefit of the children. Governors are confident that Mrs Butler's warm and open manner, her strong values, and her clear strategic approach to school management will mean she learns swiftly everything she needs to know about our school, settles in quickly, builds positive relationships, and gets to work immediately on our key priorities, including a potential visit from Ofsted. It is her intention to remain at SMAS as Interim Head until we make a permanent appointment.

Governors will be advertising the permanent Headteacher role after half term, and again at the start of the new school year, so that we can interview towards the end of September for a January or April start. This gives us the opportunity to reach the largest possible field of candidates, as well as giving us the option to readvertise in January, should we need to. I am sure you agree it is essential that we make the right appointment for the school.

Mrs Butler is understandably keen to come into school before the summer and plan for the year ahead. She is currently in a full-time role, but we will be organising hand-over meetings and visits as we approach the summer, and I will share details with you in due course.

Finally, it just leaves me to wish you a lovely half term with your children. It has been an unusual half term, and I would like to thank you on behalf of the whole governing body for all your feedback and communication with us, for being calm and supportive during what could have been an unsettling time, and for your commitment to the school.

With very best wishes,

Caroline Davis-King and the Governing Body