



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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18 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Children in Year 2

I am writing to address the many enquiries we have received from both parents and children in Owls regarding Mrs Pratt's anticipated return to school. It is with the deepest sadness that I must inform you that, due to ill health, Mrs Pratt will not be returning to Purbrook Infant School. Although she had planned to retire at the end of this academic year, unforeseen circumstances have necessitated an earlier departure.

Following a recent recruitment process, Mrs Dance was successful in securing the role to commence in September. However, due to existing commitments, she will be unable to take up the position any earlier than originally planned. In the interim, you will have noticed that Mrs Garrett has been providing consistent and dedicated cover within the Owls classroom. This arrangement will remain in place until the conclusion of the academic year, ensuring stability and continuity for the children.

I am also pleased to share that Miss Smy, who is currently completing her student teaching placement in Kestrels, has kindly agreed to extend her time with us until the end of the year, assuming the role of teaching assistant within Kestrels. This decision ensures that the children will continue to experience familiar faces, thereby maintaining consistency and the high expectations we hold across both classes.

Several children have expressed a wish to create cards for Mrs Pratt. While it is not yet clear when she may be able to visit the school to collect her belongings, we anticipate seeing her soon. Should she be unable to come in person, we will make certain that all well wishes are conveyed to her appropriately.

I am sure you will join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to Mrs Pratt for her extraordinary forty years of dedicated service to Purbrook Infant School and its pupils. As the longest-serving member of our school community, her presence in the classroom, corridors, and staffroom has been deeply valued and will be profoundly missed. Mrs Pratt has been a pillar of strength, care, and affection within our school, and her absence is felt keenly by us all.

Thank you for your continued support during this time of transition.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L A de Carteret
Headteacher