

4-2-2022

Dear Parents, Children, Staff and Governors

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Claire McKinney has been successfully appointed as the new head teacher at Richard Avenue Primary School and will be joining us from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Below is our first letter from Miss McKinney to introduce herself.

Dear Richard Avenue Families,

I am delighted to be writing my first letter as new Head Teacher of Richard Avenue Primary School. I cannot wait to get started and feel honoured and excited to have been chosen to join this wonderful school as we work together to provide the best possible education for your children whilst they are members of our school family.

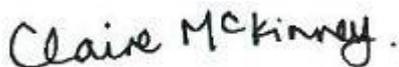
I will be visiting school over the coming weeks as I get to know everyone, so please do introduce yourselves when you see me - I have inserted a photograph so that you know what I look like. I will then be in school full time from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, and look forward to writing to you again sharing our plans for the summer term.



A little about me: I am currently head teacher at Stamfordham Primary where I have been for 15 years. I was deputy head in a Newcastle school and before that, I taught in Durham which is where I am originally from. I've been teaching for coming up to 26 years - not sure where that time has gone. I've lots of experience and enthusiasm, and am never far from a post-it note! I love to read and am a season card holder at Sunderland. Please don't hold that against me!

On behalf of all the staff at Richard Avenue, we look forward to working with you all to continue to make our school the very best it can be. From me I can promise that I will always do my very best: for you, for your children and for the staff team. We look forward to an exciting new chapter at Richard Avenue Primary School and thank you for your continued support.

Yours,



Claire McKinney

In recent weeks, Miss McKinney has visited school and has introduced herself to the staff who are all delighted to welcome her. During the remainder of the spring term, she will be visiting us on several more occasions to find out more about our school in preparation for her permanent appointment.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience during this long recruitment process and on behalf of the Governing body welcome Miss McKinney to Richard Avenue Primary School.

It also seems appropriate at this stage to thank wholeheartedly all the staff, senior leadership team and especially both Miss Walker and Mrs Robson for leading the school in the absence of a permanent Head teacher during this time. You have all been truly remarkable and a credit to your teaching profession and your own personal character and integrity. Saying thank you seems such an insignificant way of showing our gratitude but from everyone, especially the children, we thank you.

Craig Hilton  
Chair of Governors