

Dear parents and children of Harleston

Today is my last day as Deputy Headteacher of Harleston Primary Academy and I just wanted to take the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you for a wonderful 20 years! (I know, 20 years! It doesn't seem possible.)

Having previously taught in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for 5 years, I came to Norfolk in September 2000 to become Deputy Headteacher of Canon Pickering Junior School. After this, I became Deputy Headteacher of the newly created Harleston Primary School in 2003 and finally Harleston Primary Academy.

In this time I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing colleagues and 6 headteachers (Mrs Chenery, Mr Walsh, Mrs Blowfield, Mr Freeman, Mrs Foreman and Ms Holgate). I have even had the privilege of undertaking the responsibility of Acting Headteacher of the school, something that I am very proud of.

I count myself lucky to have taught hundreds of Harleston children in this time and it makes me smile to see that many of those I have taught are now parents of children who attend the school.

We have had some great times together and I will treasure the memories of the many things that have made Harleston Primary such a special experience for me: the galas, music and play performances, camp nights, residential trips, charity days, the 20 mile Olympic torch relay ... I could go on, there are so many to recollect.

I am very proud to have been a part of the Harleston family for so long and to have been instrumental in leading the school and keeping us moving forwards. Although I am very sad to be leaving you all, I am excited about what the future may hold both for myself and for the school.

I would like to thank you for the many messages of thanks and the best wishes that I have received over the past few weeks when I have seen you at the school gates or around the school. Your kind words and thoughtfulness are hugely appreciated.

I sincerely wish everybody a very merry Christmas, a safe and prosperous new year and good fortune in the years to come.

My kindest regards

Mr Lee Richardson