



Southill Primary
Headteacher's
NEWS



Friday 3rd
November
2023

And now the end is here, and so I face that final curtain...

Who hasn't enjoyed singing along to Frank Sinatra's *My Way* at the end of a wedding or long night out? The lyrics are very relevant to me right now as it is with heavy heart that I am today announcing my intention to retire at the end of this school year in July.

As you can imagine, this has been a massive decision for me and one which I have been putting off for some time. Being the Headteacher of this brilliant school is immensely rewarding and enjoyable; your children are a pleasure to see every day and I have really valued being part of this school community. The staff team is hard-working, dedicated and very supportive and I have enjoyed working alongside them for so many years. So even just thinking of leaving is very difficult - but I do know that it's now time for someone else to take up the reins and lead the school forward.

I have formally written to Keith Evans, our Chair of Governors, to inform him of my decision. In the letter, I mentioned many reasons why I have been so happy at Southill and wanted to share this part of it with you:

Perhaps the biggest reason I am reluctant to leave is the children of the school themselves. They are the reason I come to work every day and I know I will miss their energy, enthusiasm, warmth and charm. It is not an overstatement to say that getting to know so many fabulous children has been both a pleasure and a privilege and I will always remain grateful that I was fortunate enough to spend so much time happily with them.

Keith and the governors will shortly begin making plans to find a new Headteacher. I am sure he will keep you informed as the process develops.

So, that's my news. I'll leave the rest to Frank:

*Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
I did what I had to do
And saw it through without exemption
And I planned each chartered course
Each careful step along life's byway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way*

Chesil Family Advisors

I would like to introduce the Family Advisors in the Chesil's Children Services Early Help Team. Their main role is to offer information and guidance to the families in our community and signpost them to local events, support groups, parenting courses, foodbanks, early years funding and children's centres in our area. As so many of them are free they are accessible for everyone. Recently a new Facebook group was set up to help them spread the word regarding all the events in the local area. This is a great way for families to be kept up to date and they are encouraging people to join the Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/chesillocality

Please see their flyer showing what they do and an easy QR code to access the Facebook Group overleaf.

Omegle

You might not be aware of this website and app. I wasn't until recently. Omegle is a 'virtual chat room' which offers random users unmoderated chats and video with one another from anywhere in the world and is very worrying because of this lack of moderation and lack of age restrictions. It is very easy for children to be exposed to inappropriate content in a matter of seconds - and we know it has been used by children at the school.

I would encourage all parents to discuss the use of their phone with your child. As we know, having regular conversations with parents about their online life is an important way to help keep children safe, and they should all know the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they ever see anything online that alarms them or makes them feel uncomfortable. I would also recommend setting up parental controls as rigorously as you can. I have found some help and guidance for this particular app here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

That's all from me this time. Have a great weekend.

Paul Mason

Our Chesil Locality Family Advisors can offer Information, Advice & Guidance for Families in Weymouth & Portland

- Information about local groups & activities
- Information about parenting courses
- Help finding early years settings & funding options
- Signposting to support services
- Foodbank referrals
- Plus many, many more.....Just ask us!**

You can contact us by:

Phone – 01305 762400

E-mail – chesillocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

We now have a **NEW Facebook group** - follow us to find out about events & activities happening in your area at www.facebook.com/groups/chesillocality or scan the QR code below



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