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Bicton Lane
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17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

After more than twenty wonderful years in education, I've made the exciting (and slightly emotional!) decision to retire from my role as Executive Headteacher across our family of three schools at the end of this term.

It's been an incredible journey, and I feel truly privileged to have worked alongside so many inspiring children, families, colleagues, and leaders. My time in Shropshire—especially within our federation, welcoming Bicton Primary into our group, and more recently helping to establish the SCEAT Multi Academy Trust—has been full of growth, learning, and purpose. These experiences have shaped me into the headteacher I am today, and I'm deeply grateful for every moment.

As I prepare to step away, I want to send my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to you all. Our schools are so much more than just the people who lead them—they're vibrant communities where children thrive, and I've been lucky to be a small part of that. I'll carry with me so many happy memories from our three schools, thanks to the amazing pupils, staff, and families I've met along the way.

This next chapter feels like a big change, but it's made all the more exciting by the upcoming arrival of our first grandchild—due on Christmas Day! I'm hoping to be as good a grandparent as many of you already are.

To all of you who support our schools day in and day out—thank you. Your involvement makes such a difference, and it's what allows us to do our best for your children. While I know I haven't always been perfect, I hope you'll look back on my time in our schools positively. I certainly will. Your children are truly wonderful, and it's been an honour to play a small role in their journey.

I'm confident that the fantastic staff in each of our schools will continue to build on the legacy of excellence that your children have benefited from over the years. I wish them all the very best as they move forward with the SCEAT Academy Trust.

In the light of my retirement, the Trust Board has confirmed the future leadership arrangements for our schools. Our existing Head of School, Mrs Eleanor Mavin, will continue to lead the day-to-day life of the school, ensuring that children, families, and staff continue to feel supported, valued, and well cared for. As we move forward, the Trust will no longer include an Executive Headteacher within its structure, as the strategic responsibilities previously held in that role will





Bicton Primary School & Nursery

Executive Headteacher:
Mrs Julie Ball, NPQH, PGCE, PG(Dip)M
Head of School:
Mrs Eleanor Mavin NPQH, BA (Hons)

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be carried out by the central Trust team, led by our CEO. This change reflects how we have grown as a Trust, allowing our school leaders to focus on what matters most — the children and their learning. I am confident that, under the capable leadership of our Head of School and with the continued support of the Trust, our school will remain a happy, thriving community

Before I go, I'd love the chance to say goodbye in person. I'll be staying after the mince pie concert at **Ruyton** on **Wednesday 17th December** for coffee, mince pies, and cake—please do come along if you can! The concert starts at 2pm and finishes at the end of the school day, and you're very welcome to join us for that too. Feel free to invite anyone who's been part of our school community over the years.

If you can't make that date, I'll also be on site at the other schools during the last three weeks of term—so hopefully we will get a chance to catch up.

Bicton –Wednesday morning

Bomere Heath –Thursday morning

Ruyton –Friday

With warmest wishes and heartfelt thanks,

J Ball

Julie Ball

Executive Headteacher

