

21 July 2026

A Final Letter to Families

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As I write this final letter to you as Head Teacher of Overton CE Primary School, I find it difficult to put into words just what these past 22 years have meant to me.

When I first arrived in September 2004, I walked into a very different school. The building was painted a rather tired shade of blue, many of the windows did not shut properly, and the school itself was in need of significant care and attention. There were 11 classes, with mixed-age groups throughout Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The building was cluttered and untidy, there was no clear curriculum in place, and the quality of teaching and learning was variable.

However, even then, I could see something special. At the heart of the school were children who deserved the very best and a number of dedicated staff who welcomed the changes that were needed and were willing to work hard to make them happen.

Ofsted arrived soon after I started and confirmed what we already knew: there was a great deal of work to do. With the support of governors, I was able to appoint a new leadership team and recruit new staff who blended seamlessly with those already here. Together, we formed a talented, committed and determined team, united by a shared belief that the children of Overton deserved an excellent education.

The years that followed were not always easy. Staff worked incredibly hard, often under intense pressure, particularly as Ofsted returned to monitor our progress. Yet through dedication, resilience and teamwork, we made significant improvements and ensured that children were increasingly receiving the high-quality teaching and learning they deserved.

Alongside educational improvement came major changes to our school building. We celebrated the opening of our new Year R unit, library and mezzanine floor in 2012, which transformed how we moved around the school and enhanced the learning environment for everyone. Later came the large-scale recladding and refurbishment project, which brought its own challenges. Moving classes into temporary accommodation and managing significant disruption tested us all, but together we persevered and emerged stronger on the other side. Our new nursery has been along held dream and will hopefully ensure the sustainability of our school, as well as supporting the community.

Throughout these years, Overton has always been far more than a building. It is a community.

We have welcomed new staff and said farewell to colleagues who moved on to new opportunities. We have celebrated promotions and career successes, proud to know we played a part in helping people develop and flourish. We have shared in life's happiest moments, including the births of many children and grandchildren.

We have also experienced profound sadness. The loss of our much-loved Site Manager, Tim Henderson, and our wonderful teacher, Miss Courtney, touched us all deeply. We have also seen some of our families lose their loved ones too. They remain an important part of Overton's story, and they will never be forgotten.

Every single person who has walked through our doors has contributed something to the school we see today. Staff, governors, parents, carers, children, the Local Authority, the Diocese and Ofsted have all played a role in challenging us, supporting us and helping us improve.

Overton is now a fantastic school. It is not perfect—no school is—but what makes it special is its relentless determination to be better tomorrow than it was today. It listens to feedback, learns from experience and continually strives to achieve its vision of **"Excellence for All."**

As I leave, I do so knowing that the school is in very capable hands. I am delighted that Mrs Nicholls will be taking on the role of Head Teacher. She brings her own strengths, ideas and vision for the future. There will undoubtedly be changes ahead, as there should be, and I know the staff and children are excited about the next chapter. I wish her every success and happiness as she takes up the mantle and leads Overton onwards.

Personally, I will miss this community more than I can say.

I will miss standing on the gate each morning greeting children and families. I will miss leading worship and exploring life's big questions together. I will miss Hot Chocolate Fridays, Freeze Pop Fridays and the endless conversations with children about what they love about school and what they would change if they were in charge. I will miss the laughter, the challenges, the celebrations and the countless moments that make school life so special.

Most of all, I will miss the people.

Overton has been a huge part of my life for over two decades. Being your Head Teacher has been both a privilege and a joy. It has shaped who I am, and I will carry memories of this school and its families with me wherever I go.

As a small parting gift, I have presented the school with a wooden cup called **The Kindness Cup**. It reflects one of the messages we share so often with our children:

"If you can be one thing, be kind."

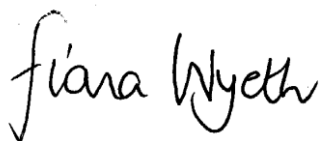
Kindness lies at the heart of Overton. It is evident in the way people care for one another, support one another and show respect for one another every day. It is one of the school's greatest strengths and a legacy upon which Mrs Nicholls and future generations can continue to build. Please can I ask you as parents to join us and for us all to be kind in our use of social media, particularly the Year Group WhatsApp groups. If there is a problem, please come and ask us so we can try and sort it.

Thank you for your support, your trust, your encouragement and your friendship over the years.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. I hope your children continue to flourish and thrive. Most of all, I hope life is kind to each and every one of you.

Goodbye, Overton.

With much love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Wyeth". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Fiona" and last name "Wyeth" clearly distinguishable.

Fiona Wyeth
Head Teacher
Overton CE Primary School