

27th April 2023

Dear Parents

As you will have already read, Mr Gilbert is due to leave Wilcombe Primary School at the end of the summer term. I would like to take a few moments, within this letter, to pay tribute to the tremendous impact Mr Gilbert has had at Wilcombe over the past six years.

Running a school is very challenging, and to do so with such success for over six years is a great testament to the commitment and leadership qualities of Mr Gilbert. In his time at Wilcombe, Mr Gilbert has led the school through a successful OFSTED inspection, supported hundreds of children from their first day at school to their successful transition to secondary school and appointed, mentored and supported numerous teachers and support staff in their work and ongoing development.

I think it is fair to say Mr Gilbert is a one-off and not just for his choice of socks!! His infectious energy and enthusiasm and genuine zest for life has inspired us all in the ten years he has worked within the Trust. During that time, his leadership skills have benefited all our schools as he has supported colleague Headteachers in developing many aspects of their work, and as part of that work Mr Gilbert has also been very successful in leading our Trust network of year six teachers.

I know that everyone associated with Wilcombe will all very much miss the exceptional levels of support that Mr Gilbert has provided over the years, but I am also confident that Wilcombe will continue to flourish as Mr Gilbert takes on new challenges.

I fully understand how a change of Headteacher can be unsettling. However, please be assured, that I and my colleagues at the Trust will be focussed on ensuring that the school continues to provide the high standard of education that you, as parents, would expect from us. Over the weeks ahead I will be working closely with Executive Leaders in the Trust and local stakeholders at Wilcombe to ensure we successfully recruit the very best leader possible. We will be looking for a leader who will fully embrace the vision and values of the school and who possesses the skills, experience and knowledge to ensure the ongoing success of the school, building on the legacy of Mr Gilbert and his team. We will be seeking to begin recruitment as soon as possible and as soon as we know who the new Headteacher is, we will let parents know.

Mr Gilbert will not be leaving until the end of the summer term, and we know that he will continue to work with his usual wholehearted professionalism and total commitment up until the final minute of his final day at the school. However, when the moment does arrive for Mr Gilbert to move on to the next exciting chapter in his career, I am sure I speak for the entire Ventrus family in wishing him, both personally and professionally, the very best for the future.

Kind regards



Gary Chown
Chief Executive Officer