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6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write on behalf of the Board of Governors to wish you and your charges a restful half term break when it arrives and to keep you abreast of the forthcoming and major changes to our leadership team in the foreseeable future as I believe communication is key.

We have now been part of The Pioneer Academy Trust (TPA) for a year, and thanks to the Head, her staff, parents and pupils the collaboration is looking good.

Having decided that joining an academy might be the way forward for our brilliant school Mrs Lovatt-Young and I spent a lot of time researching the options. When chosen, TPA was selected unanimously by the Governing body.

I am delighted to say that many of the strengths have come to pass, especially in supporting further improvements in teaching and learning and also, of course, the investment in the Palmer Outdoor Area and the field fencing. In my opinion the greatest of these strengths is that the character and ethos of our village school has been maintained while also gaining the support and opportunities that come with being part of a larger academy.

Looking forward, Mrs Lovatt-Young our marvellous head is leaving us after 11 years. When she joined, the school had had 10 heads in 17 years. Mrs Lovatt-Young is and has been a miracle worker and will be missed terribly.

I am pleased to report that there is a huge response to the advertisement for a new head (20 applications received!) and this is clear evidence that the applicants see our school as a very attractive proposition.

The Governing Board and TPA are acutely conscious that continuity is key and with these changes the children must always be in the forefront of our thinking. I am delighted to say that we have a robust and resilient arrangement until the new head starts in September. I can also affirm that our Governing body is stable and very aware of the need to ensure a seamless transition.

Jasper Dale

Chair of the Board of Governors.

February 2026