



St. Walburga's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Veronica Woodward



23 April 2026
Feast of Saint George

Dear Parents and Carers,

As everyone settles into a new term, it is pleasing to see that the sun is out again on this spring day, and I hope that this letter finds you well.

On behalf of the Governors at the school, I wanted to write and share some exciting news about the leadership at Saint Walburga's Primary School from September 2026.

For the last year and especially since celebrating a very special birthday, Mrs Veronica Woodward has been considering her role. Though Mrs Woodward remains passionate about continuing her service to the school community, she would like to reduce her week to a three-day week from September 2026.

Thus, after consultation with governors, the local authority and the diocese, we have agreed a new leadership structure for the forthcoming academic year with the introduction of a co-headship model with Mrs Woodward sharing the role with Mrs Laura Crutchley.

- Mrs Woodward will continue in a leadership role as co-head for three days a week, and
- Mrs Crutchley will step into the role of co-head for five days a week.

In addition to this and, after an interview process, we are delighted that Mr Kern Browne, Miss Sarah McKinley and Miss Nicki Wood will be taking on the role of Assistant Headteachers, each working a day a week in their new roles. This will strengthen the leadership team even further and help ensure that staff, children and families continue to receive the level of support and care they deserve.

This new structure will also mean that we will not lose Mrs Woodward's experience, wisdom and dedication, but we can now utilise and gain the additional experiences, wisdom and dedication of Mrs Crutchley, Mr Browne, Miss McKinley and Miss Wood. Together, they will share responsibilities and all five will work closely with the governors and staff to ensure the school and its community continues to thrive.

I want to reassure you that although the structure is evolving, what truly matters will remain the same:

- our high standards of teaching and learning
- our warm and nurturing care for the children
- our strong Catholic ethos (which, of course, sits at the heart of everything we do) walking in the footsteps of Jesus

As Pope Saint John Paul II once said: "Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom." With this new arrangement, we believe that the school will continue to do this for your children, but it will also enrich and support the leadership of the school as we move into the future.

These changes will be in place as a one-year secondment, and the governors will be reviewing how everything is going during the year to make sure the structure continues to serve the school in the best possible way.

We believe that this is an exciting chapter for the school and we cannot wait to work with the co-head team and new Assistant Headteachers from September 2026.

Thank you for your continued support. We are truly blessed to have such a caring and committed school community, and we look forward to the rest of this school year and then the next school year ahead.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Betts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Mr Matthew Betts

Chair of Governors
Saint Walburga's Primary School