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Tuesday 22nd June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a heavy heart that I would like to announce that Mrs Christine Peacock is retiring at the end of this term (July 16th). Chris is a much-valued member of the team here at Village Primary and will be missed terribly by pupils and parents alike.

Chris started here at Village back in 1997 – 24 years ago. Prior to this, Chris worked in a bun shop on Lanehouse Road and volunteered at Mandale Mill as a parent helper. With the 'Aiming High' project, she set up a classroom project as a library with reading resources. Then she did a 'Childhood Studies' course as an adult learner and moved into being a library assistant and lunch supervisor. When the funding ran out, a job opened up here at Village and she supported a Y2 class and gave a child some individual support. Indeed, some of the original class of Y2 children are now parents of pupils here now, which is lovely.

Since Mrs Peacock has worked here, she has worked alongside five head teachers and countless teachers, teaching assistants and other staff. Christine is often in at 7am with Alan (her husband and our caretaker) and works hard for the children and staff so that they can make the most of their education. She is passionate about all of the subjects, but has a real fondness for Maths. She spends hours each day helping children who struggle or pushing those on who are confident – she adapts her approaches so that she is personal and responsive.

As my teaching assistant for years in Y6, Chris would solve problems before I had even spotted them and would persevere with any task or job that she was given. Everything was about helping the children with any issues they had whether it be academic or personal. I will really miss Chris' sense of humour and inquisitive nature. I thought that I was nosey until I met her. She is the only person I know that would get someone's life story after knowing them for five minutes! She is very passionate about this school and the area. She sees the good in everyone and loves to chat to anyone with Thornaby roots.

We wish Christine the very best in her retirement and will miss her greatly. However, she is always welcome in school and will always be a key part of the school family and community.

Yours sincerely,

R Birtwhistle.
Headteacher.



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.

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