



Shacklewell Primary School
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Executive Headteacher: Ms Nicole Reid
Headteacher: Mr Rory McGrath

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On my final day at Shacklewell, I wanted to write to you all one last time. Whilst I have known for some time now that I would be leaving today, the reality of saying goodbye is truly beginning to set in. I want to begin by thanking you from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelming wave of kind words, warm wishes, and thoughtful messages I have received since my departure was first shared. Reading your notes and speaking with so many of you has been incredibly moving, and it serves as a beautiful reminder of why these past thirteen years at Shacklewell have been the most fulfilling of my professional life.

Reflecting on our journey together, I am filled with huge pride in the community we have nurtured. Throughout my time here, I have striven to work with one clear focus: improving the lives, experiences, and outcomes for the children in our school and community. Every decision, project, and initiative has been driven by that single, unwavering goal. What has made this mission possible is the unique partnership we share. I have always deeply appreciated that the parent school relationship has never been passive; it has been built on your immense trust and support, alongside the robust questions and active engagement you have brought to the table. These constructive, honest conversations have constantly pushed us to be better and ensured that we never stood still.

Thirteen years brings a lifetime of memories, and several key milestones stand out as true testaments to the spirit of Shacklewell. Weathering the tricky and uncertain years of the pandemic together showed the incredible depth of our resilience, proving that when the world faced unprecedented challenges, our community only pulled closer. During my time here, expanding our arts curriculum has also been a personal joy, as I truly believe that education must feed the soul; seeing our children express themselves and fill our corridors with vibrant creativity is a legacy I will always cherish. Even our Ofsted inspections, which can often be periods of apprehension, served as moments that reflected our collective strength, proving to the wider world what we already knew about our high standards and deep-rooted community care.

While I am looking forward to my new adventures, please know that Shacklewell is not a place one easily forgets. The laughter of the children, the dedication of our staff, and the warmth of you, our families, have shaped who I am as both a leader and a person. Your recent kindness has only reinforced how incredibly lucky I have been to lead this school. I will forever hold Shacklewell, and every family within it, in a very special place in my heart. Thank you for thirteen extraordinary years of partnership, trust, and community. I wish you and your children nothing but the very best for the future.

With my warmest regards and deepest appreciation,

Rory McGrath
Headteacher