



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess

*We follow in Christ's footsteps*

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement about Mrs Burgess' planned retirement from St Patrick's in the summer, the governing committee would like to extend their sincere thanks to Mrs Burgess for her dedicated service to our community. She will be much missed by us all. We look forward to taking time in the summer term to celebrate her contribution to the school before she leaves us in July.

I and the local governing committee have worked with the Trust central team to determine the best next steps for the leadership of our school.

I am delighted that Mr Martin Gray, currently headteacher at St Matthew's Catholic Primary School in Prudhoe, will be taking on the leadership at St Patrick's from September as Executive Headteacher.

Mr Gray is a highly experienced and successful leader who shares our core values, and the governors are confident that the school will continue to flourish under his guidance. Mr Gray has written a short letter of introduction and this is attached below. I know he is eager to get to know our school community.

Thank you once again for the unwavering support you show to our school and for everything you contribute to making St. Patrick's such a joyful, loving, and faith-filled community.

With warmest wishes,

**Mrs B Ewart**

**Chair of Local Governing Committee, St Patrick's Catholic School, Dipton**

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## Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton. The school and parish community hold a special place in my life, with deep family ties that have shaped my long-standing affection for St Patrick's.

It is an honour to follow in the footsteps of Mrs Burgess, whose dedication, care, and leadership have left an enduring positive impact on the school. I have great admiration for all she has achieved, and I am fully committed to building on the strong foundations, successes, and sense of community that already make St Patrick's such a wonderful place for children to grow and thrive.

I look forward to serving this community with dedication, humility, and a wholehearted commitment to ensuring the very best for every child. Over the coming months and the new academic year, I look forward to getting to know you all.

With best wishes,

Mr M Gray

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