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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Mrs Stidwell

I am writing to inform you that after working in our school for the last 18 years, Mrs Stidwell (our Early Years Coordinator) will be retiring at the end of this academic year. I'm sure you will all agree, Mrs Stidwell has been magnificent over the years and has played an enormous role in the start of the educational journey for many hundreds of our very young children.

It has been a real pleasure to work with Mrs Stidwell as her enthusiasm, professionalism and her child centred caring nature has supported not only children but staff too in their development to become better teachers and role models. Mrs Stidwell will be sadly missed and will be extremely difficult to replace.

Nevertheless, as a school and community, we have to support Mrs Stidwell's decision as she thinks about her well-deserved retirement over the coming weeks. We look back at the wonderful career she has had and what a wonderful inspiration she has been to others. Over the years there have been many highlights such as Christmas productions, trips, displays, entertaining visitors and educational classroom-based lessons. The list is endless of such glorious and happy times which many of our children will remember for the rest of their lives.

From my point of view, I can think of so many successes however, as Head Teacher, the highlights have to be the performance's Mrs Stidwell put in during the two Ofsted Inspections which I have led. The inspections were wonderful and it has to be said that the success was thanks to a full team effort gaining a Grade 1 'Outstanding' in all areas on both occasions. Nevertheless, Mrs Stidwell was amazing throughout, even asking an inspector to call back and visit her again if she wanted. Mrs Stidwell assured the Inspector the second lesson would be even better than the one she had just seen. This comment will probably go down in history as Mrs Stidwell may be from a very small and select group of teachers anywhere to have had the

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confidence to ask a Senior Ofsted Inspector to come back and observe her again! The most impressive thing from my point of view was, I had seen this quality of lesson, teaching ability, confidence and self-belief so many times before. The inspectors were so impressed by the quality of work and the realisation that our children were getting this standard of education every day that very few schools anywhere would be capable of.

As a colleague and friend of Mrs Stidwell for almost two decades, I have to say it has been fantastic and a delight to have been a member of the same team. She is supportive, thorough and a super asset and I feel lucky to have worked with such an inspirational person.

Sadly, we share Mrs Stidwell's disappointment that she was unable to complete this final academic year with her current group of wonderful children. She was so much hoping we would return and complete the year as normal so she could take time with her children, the older children she has taught, her many friends and her colleagues. We are also disappointed that we are unable to give her the party, the celebrations and the send-off she so richly deserves due to the current crisis. However, I would like to reassure you all that when restrictions are lifted sufficiently I will make arrangements where we can all come together and thank Mrs Stidwell for the fantastic contribution she has given to our school in the correct way.

Of course, Mrs Stidwell is a private person and doesn't like fuss but we can't let her go without saying a massive thank you and to wish her well for a long and happy retirement. I would love to organise a garden party on the school field for Mrs Stidwell and I promise this will happen at some time in the future so that we can celebrate her wonderful career.

Please note, if anyone would like to send Mrs Stidwell a card or a small gift please bring it to the school and I will make sure she receives it.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Myers

Head Teacher