

14th October 2026

Dear Families,

I just wanted to update you on leadership of Stanhope Barrington C of E Primary School. Firstly, I would like to thank Mrs Green and the team who have worked so hard this half term without Mrs Cross to manage not just our school but the significant building works that have been ongoing. I am pleased to report that if all goes to plan the temporary classroom is going to be removed at half term, and all children should be back in the main building. We continue to work with the DFE and Durham County Council to take steps to avoid a further flood in school.

I am sure you have also noticed that the first phase of the new roof has been completed (phase two will be next summer), new windows have been installed in the hall, the boiler has been upgraded and we are looking to replace the yard after the winter and install solar panels on the roof of the school as part of our Climate Action Plan. All of this we hope shows the investment we continue to make in Stanhope.

With regards to Mrs Cross, I can confirm that whilst her husband is making progress she will not be returning to school before Christmas. Mrs Cross wants to thank everyone for their well wishes and support over the last few weeks they have meant an awful lot.

As a result of this Mrs Green will continue to lead school in Mrs Cross's absence and as a Trust we will continue to support Mrs Green to ensure as much stability as possible for the children.

We are pleased that Mrs Darwin has agreed to remain with us for the first three weeks after half term, providing continuity for the children. Mrs Darwin has recently secured a permanent teaching position and, whilst we are delighted for her, this means that she will not be able to remain with us until Christmas as we had all hoped. To ensure a smooth transition, we are already in the process of securing a replacement in good time. This will allow for a thorough handover and provide an opportunity for the children to meet and spend time with their new teacher before Mrs Darwin leaves us. We know how important consistency is for our Year 6 pupils and will do everything possible to ensure a seamless transition.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break with your children and look forward to children coming back for the run up to Advent and Christmas.

Best wishes,



Paul Rickeard