



Ballyoran Primary School

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Principal: Mr R Woolsey, BEd (Hons), PQH

Vice Principal: Mrs R McGuire, BA (Hons), PGCE, PQH

22nd June 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

It is with a mixture of gratitude, pride, and a lot of sadness that I write this final letter. As you are all aware I will be leaving Ballyoran Primary School at the end of this term, after 21 wonderful years in this very special school community.

It has been both a privilege and an honour to serve as your Vice Principal and Principal for the last two decades. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working alongside dedicated staff, supportive parents and families, and, most importantly, generations of remarkable pupils who have inspired me every single day. Watching our children grow, achieve, and flourish has been the most rewarding aspect of my time here.

I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together as a school community. From developing a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels safe, valued and cared for, to strengthening our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, Ballyoran Primary School has remained a place where children can truly thrive. This success has only been possible through the strong partnerships between home and school, and I thank you sincerely for your co-operation and support over the years.

After much reflection, I have decided that the time is right for me to take on a new challenge, and as you are already aware, I have been promoted to the post of Principal of Millington Primary School from 1st September. While I am excited about this opportunity, leaving Ballyoran was not an easy decision and will be very difficult as it has been such an important part of my life for so long.

As I prepare to leave, I have every confidence that this school will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead. I want to pay tribute to and say thank you to my amazing staff team, I am very fortunate to have worked alongside such an exceptional, hardworking, dedicated and committed group of people who have, your children's best interests at the heart of everything they do. I know that you will continue to support them with the same commitment and care that has always been shown.

As you are all aware, our wonderful Vice Principal Mrs McGuire has been appointed to succeed me as Principal, I am absolutely delighted for her and want to congratulate her on this well-deserved promotion. She has been an outstanding Vice Principal, and I have no doubt that she will be an

outstanding Principal. I know that the school is in very safe and capable hands and will continue to be successful under her leadership and I wish her well for the future.

As I prepare to say goodbye, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for being part of this incredible journey. Your welcome, support, encouragement, trust, and partnership have meant so much, and I will carry many fond memories of my time at Ballyoran Primary School with me for the rest of my life.

Finally, I wish all of our amazing pupils continued success and happiness in their learning, and I wish you and your families all the very best in the years ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Woolsey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Woolsey
Principal