



SIR JOHN MOORE C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs Tae Carpenter



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Dear Parents, Carers and the wider group of SJM friends

With hugely contrasting emotions, I am writing to inform you that Mrs Carpenter has resigned from her role as Headteacher, and will be leaving SJM on 31st August 2023. She is joining a partnership in Nottinghamshire as a System Lead - a Headteacher with executive oversight for a further 2 schools.

First and foremost, I am thrilled for Mrs Carpenter, as she takes the thoroughly deserved next step in her career, having led SJM with absolute distinction for the past 10 years. I am also incredibly sad to be losing a truly outstanding Headteacher, an inspirational leader and role model to both our staff and pupils, and a wonderful colleague, with whom it has been an absolute pleasure to work during my time as a Governor.

During her 18 years at SJM, Mrs Carpenter has continually driven and maintained the highest standards throughout the School, creating strong and trusting relationships with pupils, families and staff. She has grown the School, in terms of pupil numbers, facilities – including the two Lodge classrooms – and opportunities available to pupils through the breadth of clubs, extra-curricular activities and SJM eXtra.

Her leadership during, and in the aftermath of, the pandemic was truly exceptional. She quickly established an online curriculum to mitigate lost classroom learning time, and put systems in place to support pupils and their families during the national lockdowns and subsequent return to School.

Yet Mrs Carpenter's greatest gift is her personality – the smile that greets you every morning walking up the path to School, her positivity, her willingness to always lend an ear and help out during tough times, and her unwavering belief in each one of her 152 current "babies" at SJM. She is the true embodiment of SJM's Christian ethos.

We will all miss Mrs Carpenter tremendously, and she will leave a huge void. She has, however, developed an incredibly capable, loyal and long serving team around her, and this team will support our new Headteacher to ensure that SJM continues to flourish and excel. The recruitment process has already begun, with the aim of appointing our new Headteacher during the first half of the summer term, thus allowing plenty of time for a smooth handover and transition before Mrs Carpenter leaves at the end of the academic year.

I encourage you to share this news with your child(ren) this evening. Mrs Carpenter will be on the School gate tomorrow, being brave, and will also spend time with each class to talk through her leaving.

I will continue to share updates and news when I can, but please rest assured that I am supported by an exceptional Governing body, and that we will lead the transition to our new Headteacher as smoothly as possible, minimising disruption to our pupils and staff.

With best wishes,

Andy Carter
Chair of Governors

