

## Leaving Speech 2014

Thank you for this splendid do particularly to **Mrs Bradbury** for organizing it all in secret and for all who have done their bit also in secret and to the children for keeping the surprise. Well done! I really appreciate all this.

During my time at Twineham I've worked with many different people. Headship itself can be very lonely and tough and without the support of different teams I find it difficult to see how I got through the 13 and 2/3 years. So I would like to thank the following **teams** of people for their help and support over the years.

Firstly I would like to thank the **Nears Headteachers team** who have provided much professional support and given courage and answers to challenging questions and advice on handling tricky situations. They have made a lonely job a lot less lonely!

From the **Governors team** I've learnt to clarify my thinking and to justify and explain. They have been very helpful and supportive of the school and of me. They have fought tirelessly for extra space in school and won on the fire escape, kitchen and new group rooms- thank you Governors too.

From the **teams of parents over the years** well I've learnt what parents want from the school and from a Headteacher and when Ofsted last came ... well you were real force to be reckoned with - that poor inspector - thank you for that - the school is very grateful! I am so grateful to all the parents who have helped the school in so many ways with their volunteering from hearing children read and playing maths games to providing transport to matches and running clubs, and to the various **Friends of Twineham groups** who have raised thousands of pounds for the school, an example of which is the garden and its new pond. Thank you so much for your tremendous support of the school.

From the **other volunteers team** - volunteers from the village who hear children read, work in the garden growing the vegetables and Sussex Caring pets volunteers. I've learnt so much about the power of a dog to listen to reading and seen real joy from the children as they read to the dogs hesitantly at first and then with a growing confidence as these lovely dogs pass no judgement just to listen. And thank you for the vegetables from the garden.

From the **village team** I've learnt so much about village life horses and ponies and what constitutes rain and I know that the **church** have been behind the school and I thank them for their prayers and support particularly at sad times. We have been blessed by having a dedicated team of regular **visitors to lead assemblies**. We all have learnt so much from them.

From the **team of children** I've learnt to keep them firmly in focus as it is for them that we do what we do. I've learnt all about the joy of childhood in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

From the **staff team** - **office staff, TAs mid day supervisors, care taking teams and teachers the whole staff team**, I've learnt about the importance of standing together as a team, working hard, and true dedication and I thank every one of them from the bottom of my heart for this. I know how lucky Twineham is in the staff it has.

You know when I was interviewed for the job over 14 years ago I was asked to talk about what I understood by the word **quality**. I managed at this point to drop all my overhead projector slides and the pile of work I'd brought to illustrate my talk! Since appointment I promise you that I **have given my best shot** to deliver quality at Twineham! I have not always got things right. Sometimes there is no 'right' but I have always tried to do the best for our school, and I hope that you agree with me that our school has enjoyed immense success.

However I don't think that you have seen me at my best, Twineham has seen me the Headteacher - but it is the **teacher** bit that I really loved, it is what I wanted to do as a child - teaching my dolls and marking my own books. Teaching is a wonderful job, full of surprises, exhausting, tough and so very rewarding much tougher today though with its amazing pressures but none the less still a wonderful job - so thank you Twineham teachers and TAs for sharing their classes and their stories with me and so reminding me what the profession I joined in 1981 is all about. So to all the **teams of people and children I've taught pre-Twineham**, you've given me lots of memories and stories to tell thank you too.

Finally I would like to thank my **home team**. Ginger- he's seen me off each morning and welcomed home each evening with such dedication and love,. He is truly my joy after a busy day. Then there is Alan, very much in the background for Twineham, but Twineham has benefited so much from his unsung presence - from fixing computers, sorting excel spreadsheets at 11.30 at night, to making my lunch each day, listening to my bang on about school, and his endless encouraging, encouraging and encouragement. His positivity knows no bounds and it is extremely irritating, especially when he's proved right! Still he is my rock and my balance and I am looking forward to our move to Hamble and our future sailing together. Thank you for getting me to school each day.

There are many people I've not thanked by name, please take this as my personal thank you for your support.

Thank you Twineham for the last 13 and 2/3 years! One of the things the Governors, staff and I worked on a few years ago was our **values** around **living, loving, laughing and hoping** that is on posters round the school, on the website and on the mugs for the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. I know that I will think of you often and I promise to try to: **live** every moment, to **laugh** every day, to **love** beyond measure, to continue to **learn** throughout life, for you never stop, and to you **Twineham children** please continue to be a hope for the future and that's a big responsibility as you are the major part of my legacy.

Thank you Twineham School and lot of luck as you journey on in the future. Thanks for the past together and here's to all our futures. I wish you all a happy holiday.