



ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Huddersfield Road, Millbrook
Stalybridge, SK15 3JL

Tel: 0161 338 4095

Web: www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

Twitter: @straphsRC

Headteacher: Mrs L. Lakner
head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

3rd March, 2026

Dear parents and families,

I have written many letters to parents over the years but this is a letter I write with very mixed emotions.

After 40 happy years working at St Raphael's I have decided to retire at the end of this academic year in August 2026.

I started at St Raphael's as a newly qualified teacher and have had many roles and job titles over 40 years. I have been headteacher since March 2019. I am very proud of the special place that we have all created at St Raphael's and of the many achievements and successes that the school has had.

I have so many things to be grateful for. I have been very privileged to work for so long in such a special school and to be part of the lives of so many wonderful children and families has been a huge blessing. I am now working with many children whose parents I taught and to see the successes of former pupils has always inspired and motivated me.

I have been fortunate to work with a superb, dedicated staff over many years including the current staff, Mr Matthews and all the hard-working staff we have today. Together we have created a strong family team who have shared joys and laughter as well as supporting each other through difficult times.

I have been fortunate and wish to thank our dedicated governors both past and present. Also, I am grateful for the support of the parish priests and parish community. To share the faith journey of so many children has been a blessing which has enhanced my own faith journey.

To all parents and families that I have worked with I want to thank you for your support over so many years.

The governors and the diocese will soon begin the recruitment process and I will keep you informed at all stages.

Obviously, until the end of this school year it will be business as usual as we continue to ensure that all our pupils achieve their full potential.

Thank you, as always, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask,

Mrs L. Lakner

Mrs Lynn Lakner



May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together.