



The Federation of Cowick and Pollington-Balne CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher: Mrs K Rawes
Chair of Governors: Mrs K Ray



Cowick CE Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs C Bagguley

Pollington-Balne CE Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs M Batty

2 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Updates

I would like to inform you about some important staffing changes within our school and updates regarding our Forest School provision.

Following Ms. Bainbridge's reduction in hours, we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Rushby to our admin team. Ms Bainbridge will be greeting you in the front office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday mornings, Mrs Rushby on Thursdays and Friday afternoons and Ms. Warren on Tuesdays.

In addition, we are pleased to introduce Mrs. Wood as our new Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). Mrs. Wood will provide cover for classes during PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) and leadership time.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce Mrs. de Bethel has made the difficult decision to leave our Pollington family due to a recent change in personal circumstances. Her last day with us will be 19th December. Mrs. Stone, who has worked on long-term supply in our school, is a Key Stage 1 specialist and knows the children well, will be teaching Year 1/2 in Ash Class from January while we recruit for a permanent replacement.

Mrs de Bethel wanted you to know:

It is with deep sadness that I share that I will not be returning to Pollington in the New Year. Over the past year, my personal circumstances have changed significantly, particularly with my husband now working away from home and my needing to balance work with caring for our two children. To create a more sustainable routine for our family, I have accepted a position at my children's school beginning in January 2026. This has been an extremely difficult decision, as I have truly loved being part of our Pollington family. However, I hope you can understand my need to prioritise my family at this time. I am profoundly grateful to Mrs Rawes and the governors for their constant support and for welcoming me into such a warm, dedicated team. I will miss my colleagues greatly, and it is especially hard to say goodbye to a school that consistently puts the children at the heart of everything it does and has shown both me and my own children such strength, kindness, and support.

Mrs de Bethel

Regarding our Forest School provision, due to imposed budgetary constraints, we will be discontinuing our partnership with our external Forest School provider, Woodland ExpLaura's. However, we want to reassure families that Forest Schools and Creative Outdoor Learning Activities (COLA) will continue to be integral to our curriculum. We are fortunate to have a Forest School-trained teacher within our staff team, Mrs Jones, and our teachers

have recently received Local Authority training on outdoor learning. These changes will take effect after the February half term.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Laura for the wonderful work she has done with our children. Her dedication, creativity, and passion for outdoor learning have been truly appreciated, and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these changes. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rawes' with a small horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs K Rawes

Executive Headteacher