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Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Dear Parents and Carers

I am so pleased to be writing to you today with some very lovely news about the future of our school family here at Crich Junior School.

Finding the right person to lead our school is a big responsibility, as we wanted someone who truly understands what makes our community so special. After a very thoughtful search, the Governors are delighted to share that Mrs Catherine Wheatcroft will be joining us as our new Headteacher from 1st September 2026.

Mrs Wheatcroft is currently Head of School at Leys Junior School, and throughout our time meeting her, we were struck not just by her experience, but by her genuine warmth and kindness. It was clear that Mrs Wheatcroft understands and values what makes our school so special as well as sharing our belief that every child should feel happy, safe, and inspired every single day they walk through the doors.

### **Words from Mrs Wheatcroft:**

I am delighted to be writing this message to you as the new Headteacher of Crich Junior School. It truly is a privilege to take on this role, and I am looking forward to working in close partnership with you, the staff, governors, and of course, your fabulous children.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work in many different settings. I must say the caring and supportive community here is tangible. During my interview last week, many of the children spoke confidently about how much they value the support of the staff and their friends. In fact, when I asked one pupil what their favourite thing about the school was, they simply said: 'How happy everyone is!'.

From my very first visit, through the interview process and my conversations since, it is clear that Crich Junior School is a very special place indeed. I am eager to begin building on the school's many strengths and leading it into its next chapter.

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*Crich Junior School - our happy, caring community school*



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I'm excited to spend some more time in school before the summer holidays and look forward to meeting you all very soon!

–Mrs C Wheatcroft

We know that change can sometimes feel a little unsettling for children, so we are working closely with Mrs Wheatcroft and Mr Orridge to make sure the transition is as smooth and thoughtful as possible over the coming months for both the children and staff.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Mr Orridge for everything he has done for us. We are so grateful for his care and support during this time. For more than 20 years this has been more than a place of work for him, he has always cared for the school and the community deeply. We wish him all the very best for the future.

With very best wishes,

Daniel Anderson,  
Chair of Governors  
Crich Junior School

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