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5th January 2016.

Dear Parents,

Firstly, may I welcome you to the start of a new term at Hartsfield and wish you and all of our families a very happy, healthy and successful 2016!

As we start 2016, I have reflected on how it has been one of the greatest honours and privileges of my life to serve the towns, villages and communities of North Hertfordshire for over the past thirty years in my roles in teaching, Deputy Headship and as the Headteacher of two sensational schools. Teaching is part of my DNA and has always defined me both professionally and personally, influencing my view of purpose, aspirations, achievements and moral compass. I quite simply, adore teaching!

Over the years I have watched with pride as children (and the children of children I taught many years ago!) have proved successful, determined and engaging learners, children who have shown courage to try new challenges academically and through sport, music and the arts, I have watched with pride as children have grown in confidence, maturity and in developing empathy with others. I have followed with keen interest the success stories of many children into university, college or the workplace. Being entrusted with the education and care of children is a role that has never been taken lightly and I thank too many families to count, for that trust.

Time has however crept up on me and it is with very mixed emotions that I have decided to retire at the end of the academic year in July 2016. I have been privileged to work with exceptional and dedicated professionals over the years and I believe the future of the teaching profession is secure in the hands of some outstanding and dedicated teaching professionals and that our children will continue to flourish and thrive.

I have informed the Chair of Governors of my decision to leave Hartsfield School and the Governing Body, supported by the Local Authority will begin the recruitment process with immediate effect in order for a new Headteacher of Hartsfield School to take up post in September 2016.

I intend upholding all the values that Hartsfield and its community represents whilst I continue to be the Headteacher of Hartsfield School. This is the first of many thank you's for your support over the years. I will, of course, keep you informed and updated as events and the recruitment process develops.

Yours sincerely,

S.J. Summerhayes.
Headteacher.