

17 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Leadership Update

I wanted to update you on the leadership arrangements at Buckfastleigh Primary School as we move into the new term.

As you know, Mr Dan Kay has been supporting the school as Executive Headteacher recently. His priority has been to stabilise the school and build the necessary capacity for local leadership to take the reins. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and the support he has provided to staff and families during this time.

To ensure continuity while we confirm more substantive arrangements for the longer term, we have asked Mrs Jessica Rafferty to step into the role of Acting Headteacher.

Many of you already know Mrs Rafferty well in her capacity as Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead. However, Mrs Rafferty is also a highly experienced senior leader who has previously held a Headship role. She possesses the exact blend of experience, skill and deep knowledge of the Buckfastleigh community needed to lead the school forward. Mrs Rafferty will be supported by Mr Grafton who will take on the role of Deputy Headteacher and continue in his role as SENDCo.

To ensure Mrs Rafferty can dedicate her full attention to leading the school, supporting staff and driving school improvement, she will be stepping away from her classroom teaching commitments to focus entirely on her Headship duties. Ms Lintott will continue teaching Year 2 and Year 3 and will now teach for three days of the week. Mrs Drew, who worked with the class during the Autumn Term, will be teaching the other two days.

This appointment marks a positive step for the school, ensuring strong, consistent and on-the-ground leadership every day.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Rafferty on this appointment and may we thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,



Nat Parnell  
Deputy CEO  
Westcountry Schools Trust

**STRONGER TOGETHER ... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL**