

# Forest Town Primary & Nursery School

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Interim Head Teacher  
Dr Donna Chambers

18 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to provide you with an important update regarding the Head Teacher position at Forest Town Primary School.

As you know, Donna Chambers will be leaving her interim post as Head Teacher here to take up an exciting new position as one of His Majesty's Inspectors for Education. Donna remains fully committed to Forest Town Primary School and, with Elaine Thornhill, will continue to lead the school until the end of December.

Donna has done an excellent job in continuing to evolve and develop Forest Town Primary School into a school where children belong, aim high and are able to succeed.

In consultation with the Local Authority, Interim Executive Board, and members of the wider Nova Trust Strategic Leadership Team, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Vanessa Farr (currently Head Teacher at Birklands Primary School, part of Nova Education Trust) to the position of Head Teacher at Forest Town Primary School from January 1st 2025 - the date upon which the school will convert to an academy and officially join Nova Education Trust.

Vanessa brings extensive leadership experience to Forest Town Primary School and has a track record of success across all areas of school, having led Birklands Primary School to a strong position both educationally and academically. Under Vanessa's leadership Birklands Primary School has been ranked as one of the highest performing primary schools in the area and, in a recent nationally benchmarked survey, 93% of Birkland Primary School parents said they would recommend the school to other parents. This is +18% more positive than the national UK benchmark which compares answers from over 34,000 parents and carers from schools across England. We are very much looking forward to Vanessa building on the work already started at Forest Town Primary School to develop it as an outstanding community school for all.

I am sure you will join us in wishing Vanessa every success as she takes up this exciting position and look forward to her starting in January. She will write to you all to formally introduce herself in the coming weeks and months. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Donna for her outstanding commitment and continuing leadership of Forest Town Primary School, and the work that she has started within the wider school community.

Yours faithfully

**Ash Rahman**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Nova Education Trust**