

Reading Early Years Schools Federation

A federation of Blagdon, Caversham and New Bridge Nursery Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Joanne Budge BEd (Hons) MA



27th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Further to my email in September informing you of my intention to step down from my post as Executive Headteacher in September 2026, I am pleased to inform you that the Governors have successfully appointed a new Executive Headteacher, Ben O'Shea.

I will be working closely with Ben throughout the summer term to ensure a smooth and effective handover, maintaining continuity and stability for the school community.

Please see below a message from Ben, who is looking forward to joining the school.

Kind regards,
Jo Budge

Executive Headteacher

REYS Federation

A message from our incoming Executive Headteacher

Dear families,

I am really pleased to be writing to you as the incoming Executive Headteacher for the Reading Early Years Schools Federation. I am very excited to be joining the REYS team in September.

My name is Benedict O'Shea and I have worked in education since 2013. For the past five years, I have been the Headteacher of a successful infant school in Surrey, where inclusion, wellbeing, and high-quality early education sit at the heart of everything we do. Alongside this, I have opened three school-based nurseries over recent years, giving me a strong understanding of early years provision from the very start of a child's learning journey. I hold a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and I am a Specialist Leader in early reading and early maths. These areas are a real passion of mine, as strong foundations in communication, language, and number open doors for children far beyond their early years. What drew me to REYS is the shared belief that children thrive best in secure, nurturing, and stimulating environments, where they are encouraged to be curious, resilient, and confident learners. I strongly believe in placing the child at the centre, building learning around their interests and needs, and creating those moments of awe and wonder that make early learning so powerful and memorable.

I am very much looking forward to working with the dedicated staff across all three schools, sharing expertise, learning from one another, and continuing to build a rich and inclusive

culture that values every child and every family. I also look forward to meeting many of you, and of course your children, from September onwards.

Over the coming months, I will be working closely with your current Executive Headteacher, Joanne Budge, to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. I am grateful for her support and commitment to the federation, and I am keen to build on the strong foundations already in place.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am proud to be joining a federation that is so clearly committed to creating lifelong learners, and I am excited about the journey ahead.

Warm regards,
Benedict O'Shea