

Reading Early Years Schools Federation

A federation of Blagdon, Caversham and New Bridge Nursery Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Joanne Budge BEd (Hons) MA



20th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you one final time as Executive Headteacher of our federation. As many of you will remember, I shared earlier this year that I would be leaving my role at the end of the summer term. As that time has now arrived, I wanted to thank you for your kindness and support and to reflect on what has been such a special chapter.

It has been an absolute privilege to lead our three nursery schools over the past few years. One of the achievements I am most proud of has been bringing the schools together as a federation. Watching each school retain its own unique identity and character, whilst benefiting from the shared strength, expertise and collaboration of the federation, has been incredibly rewarding. Together, we have built something very special.

Throughout my time here, I have always believed that every child deserves the very best start in life. It has been a joy to see our schools continue to flourish, providing high-quality early education and support for children and their families. I leave knowing that the federation is in a strong position, with dedicated staff, committed governors and wonderful families who all share that same vision.

I am delighted that Ben will be joining the federation as the new Executive Headteacher. I know he will continue to build on everything we have achieved together, and I am confident the federation will continue to go from strength to strength under his leadership. For those families returning in September, I am sure Ben will be in touch to introduce himself and begin getting to know you and your children.

Although I am stepping away from this role, I won't be going far. I will continue working closely with the federation through my role leading one of the Department for Education's Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs, based at Blagdon Nursery School. This means I will still have the opportunity to support and develop our staff, while also working with colleagues across the wider early years sector to share best practice and help ensure that children continue to receive the highest quality education and care.

It has been a genuine pleasure to get to know so many of you and your children over the years. Thank you for your trust, your support and for allowing us to be part of your children's early learning journeys.

To those families whose children are moving on to primary school, I wish you every happiness and success as you begin this exciting new chapter. I know your children will carry with them the confidence, curiosity and love of learning that has been nurtured during their time with us.

To those families who will be returning in September, I wish you a wonderful summer. I know the federation is in excellent hands, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive.

Thank you once again for your kindness, encouragement and support. It has truly been an honour to serve as your Executive Headteacher and to be part of such a caring and dedicated community.

I wish you all a safe, happy and relaxing summer.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Budge". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Joanne Budge
Executive Headteacher