

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you all to introduce myself as Executive Principal of Yarnfield Primary School. It is an honour and a privilege to have the opportunity to work with you and your children and I am really looking forward to watching them learn, develop and thrive in our school.

My experience in Primary Education spans the past 23 years. I have been Headteacher of 2 primary schools, both of which were in Special Measures when I was appointed and both of which were then rated Outstanding at their first inspection. In addition to this, I have been Executive Headteacher of 4 other primary schools, again, all in challenging situations. All of my schools have been large primaries serving communities where many families face challenging circumstances and where a good school and an excellent education are vital to ensure children can achieve in later life. I have also been a Local Authority School Improvement Adviser for 3 different Local Authorities and for the past 4 years have been the Director of School Improvement for one of the largest Multi Academy Trusts in the country, leading improvement for 34 Primary and Secondary Academies.

As Executive Principal I am delighted to be working alongside Mrs Rena Ali as Head of School. Mrs Ali comes to us with 16 years of experience in Primary Education specialising in a range of areas with a key focus on raising standards in Teaching and Learning. Her driving passion and aspiration is that she believes every child should have the opportunity to reach their potential no matter where there starting points. She has previous experience of working in a different Local Authority as well working in a number of schools across Birmingham. The schools where Mrs Ali has worked have varied in terms of communities facing challenges everyday and then contrasting schools with sustained circumstances providing a different set of challenges, all her work involved one common goal in raising standards from Special Measures to Outstanding. Mrs Ali is a qualified Every Child Counts Teacher and Primary Mathematics Specialist Teacher (MaST) where she achieved accelerated learning in mathematical attainment for the lowest achievers and all learners in school. She is also a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) for Early Years where she works with other Primary Schools and Teaching Alliances to lead and drive improvement in Birmingham.

Like myself, Mrs Ali began working with the school in January. Since then, we have worked with staff to introduce effective strategies and systems that drive improvement across the school to ensure that your children receive a truly high-quality education. As such, we would like to invite you all to join us in school on Tuesday at 2:40pm to meet us in person and to hear about the work we have been doing and more importantly the difference it has already made to your children's progress and outcomes.

As parents you will want to know that the school is improving and that this is making a difference to your child. To keep you informed of what is happening we will be producing a fortnightly newsletter. The first one will be published on Friday 9th March. This will then be followed up by a half termly Ofsted Update that will outline for you our progress towards achieving a positive outcome at our next inspection. In addition to this we will be continuing with our parent workshops and events across the school to enable you to be part of your child's school experience. Another important tool we will be using is twitter. Through twitter we can keep you in touch with up to the minute information but also share the lovely things that are happening each day in school. To access this information please follow <https://twitter.com/YarnfieldSch>.

We are both proud to be working with you all at Yarnfield and we are both determined and committed to ensuring that your children receive the outstanding education that they rightly deserve.

We look forward to welcoming you to Yarnfield on Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Leah Charlesworth
Executive Principal

