



### Elizabeth Mahony

This week we say a fond, but sad farewell to Liz Mahony who has been working at Kingham for 21 years!



### Dear Mrs Mahony...

The fun Liz and I had on our school trips and residentials, where she talked me into all sorts of things to the amusement of children and their parents.

From our Chinese and Roman dress along with Tash, Suzie and Jess, to dragon racing, kayaking, raft-making (and sinking!) and many more, crazy, but fun activities all connected to learning of course. Your forever friend *Elaine Yeatman*.

**Perhaps the most hardworking, diligent, committed, artistic and intuitive of us all, armed with an unparalleled dry sense of humour and a crucially important, in-depth knowledge of the local area and the community.**

Always there, in school, quietly beaver away during every holiday and most Sundays, making her classroom the creative, artistic, inspirational Aladdin's cave it always was. Her dedication to her craft and the school was part of its backbone as much as it was her strength and we, each in turn would, at some point, lean in on her for support.

I'm trying to resist the word maternal because that suggests a certain age-group and image which Liz won't thank me for, but actually, she was, in the sense that she was that constant source of comfort and friend to everyone. The children adored her, the parents admired and respected her....deservedly so.

So, Liz and I shared an immediate age-related mutuality which blossomed into something far warmer, laced with our shared appreciation and determination to pursue and celebrate the creative aspects of learning. We both recognised that this was at serious risk of becoming lost and a causality of a curriculum dominated by attainment; embedded predominantly in the core subjects. Liz and I knew that with skilful planning and teaching the two could not only be combined but be the enhancement of the other. The mosaic, created to celebrate the 10th birthday of the school hall was our first 'artist-in-

residence' project; a permanent anniversary 'marker' and symbol of our shared pedagogy.

Informally, anecdotes and references to celebrities, musicians and comedians of a time shared by those only of a certain age, "Rock on Tommy!" with the essential braces arm-bend action became our password to survival... on even the darkest of days.

Liz: inspirational, funny, uncomplaining, generous with her time and thoroughly deserving of the chance to put her feet up. Except she won't, she'll carry on sharing her love of learning, literature, art and anything creative. Enjoy the next part of your adventure Liz "Rock on Tommy!" *Janet Kempton*

When you think of Kingham Primary School, you think of Mrs Mahony! From painting the skirting boards in the summer holidays to her inspirational teaching and unbelievable knowledge of all things Kingham and beyond, Liz has always been there for me- from my early days as a newly qualified teacher as my Kingham Mum, as a dear, valued friend over the last 5 years. She leaves a big hole, especially in the areas of art, design and technology and language, where her talents have inspired generations of Kingham children. Our time in Year 3 and Year 4 working together was one of great creativity and productivity fuelled by endless amounts of laughter from both the children and us. Thank you for everything Liz, it certainly has been an amazing journey! *Jess Ralf*

I will dearly miss our hallway chats about everything from Brexit to the state of modern British politics. But, more than that, I will miss the way we could discuss children's books - sharing a passion for the classics, but also enjoying new stories from new authors. I will also miss the chance to come into your room and just watch the birds you so lovingly encouraged, whilst revelling in the art you managed to achieve with even our youngest learners.

Enjoy this next exciting step. *Emma Jenkinson*

You are special to me because you showed me never to give up. When I was in your class, you were always supportive, and you always looked for the best in people. These are some reasons why I love you: you are kind, loving, fair, respectful, arty, positive, and forgiving. I remember working on School Council with you – I loved it!

I will really miss you. *Hannah Baxter, Y5 student*

From TA to teacher and twenty years at this school – amazing! The laughs we've had, the staff and kids we've seen come and go – there have been many, including our own - my son and daughter and your three boys.

I've enjoyed working with you, when I was caretaker, we spent most of our weekends and most of the holidays together. You're going to be greatly missed as are your beautiful works of art. Be happy! *Cherie Gregory*



Liz, what can I say? I am devastated that you are leaving us after so many wonderful years - I'll miss your presence so much, aside from your superb teaching and our mutual love of the arts and all things literary! Do you remember our first Shakspearian production? So many years ago... It was Oskar and Imogen's year. However, I know that you are going on to more lovely and creative endeavours, so I am really happy for you. All my love. *Catherine Harrison*

Liz - you are incredible! A true friend that would move heaven and earth to help anyone in need. I really will miss the laughs and the jokes we have in school (and the reaction of the children). Shouting *Mahony!* down the corridor or across the field won't be possible anymore, but that doesn't mean you will be forgotten! Thank you for everything you have done for me. *Leigh-Anne Woskett*

Liz has been an amazingly nurturing teacher at Kingham for more years than I care to remember! Generations of children have been inspired by her to follow their dramatic dreams, to extend their reading and regularly immerse themselves in a great book and have confidence to release their creativity and artistic flair! Liz's musicality and brilliant eye for unlocking budding talents makes her a very special teacher whose influence reaches way beyond these vital Primary School days... it lasts a lifetime.

Thank you Liz for engendering a love of learning, installing all the basics to enable our children to build solid academic achievements, and for nurturing an artistic passion and curiosity of the world around them. *Lynn Sinclair*

It has been a pleasure working with such a 'magic-weaver' over the past few months. Mrs Mahoney's passion and creativity are a joy to experience. Her love of teaching brings a magic to the classroom that generations of children have been lucky to have experienced. Thank you for all your hard work and best of luck Liz! *Nicholas Prockter*

I will miss you! In particular, I will miss your positive attitude, the fact that you are so approachable and that you love a laugh! I shall miss the times when you used to call me Millie! I wish you the best of luck in the future. *Lucy Eyles, Y5 student*

How lucky we have been to have had 3 out of 4 Wilsons experience the wonderful world that is the 'Land of Mahony'. Your creative teaching style is exactly what my children needed and you understood from the outset that in order to achieve academically they needed to be creatively stimulated. With you, they have travelled far and wide, both in the classroom and on the most magical memory-making trips. You have also been the most fabulous 'go to' when I have not quite got things right! I remember creeping into your classroom with a reception aged Delilah, with no pants! You whizzed off to your magic cupboard and bought out a pack of pants. Mrs M to the rescue. I can't say that I would have admitted that error to most and bless you, you never ever mentioned it again.

Thank you for all that you have done for the Wilsons, young and old. I hope now that you are starting a new chapter it gives us the opportunity to move from teacher/parent relationship to one of friends, with lots of fun times ahead. *Kate Wilson*

## Kami Smith

We also say a sad goodbye to Kami Smith who after 15 years of inspirational teaching is moving home to the South coast.



## Dear Miss Smith ...

Kami, I'll try to describe you in a few words: hilariously funny, honest, endlessly curious, mercurial, complicated, total original, borderline ocd(!) generous, fiery, energetic, impulsive, kind, impatient, intelligent, and a dear and loyal friend. Where on earth has the time gone?

Fifteen years has flown by, we made a great team didn't we? So many lucky children had the privilege of being taught by you, the very best, most inspirational teacher. Kami, words can't convey how I'll miss you... you are more than a colleague, more than a friend- you feel like family... Thank you for the last fifteen years. *Catherine Harrison*

I can't believe you are leaving after 15 years, but I know it's the right time for you. You've been great for Kingham Primary School - all the kids have loved having you as their teacher.

I know I've loved working with you and having you as a friend, we've laughed together and cried together and laughed some more!

Wow! That laugh, or cackle as I call it, will definitely be missed. I've watched you fall in and out of love a few times... never got to buy a hat!

I'm going to miss you on Wednesdays when you come into pinch a spud or ten and dip them in gravy, and on Fridays - chips and beans day for you.

That morning you came and found me to tell me you were leaving, I was so happy for you, but OMG so sad for me and Kingham School! Kami, I wish you well in your new job and home. Maybe I *will* get to buy a hat!!

Be happy and keep in touch k.....s! *Cherie Gregory*

Well we nearly got there! We were praying every year that you would stay for the next Wilson. I suppose 3 out of 4 is pretty good going and wonder whether the thought of the final one has pushed you to finally make the move to leave. Your energy and enthusiasm that has surrounded my children has helped to create independent learners that have moved into secondary school with confidence. We love that you got to know each of them for them self, never comparing and always delighting in their individual strengths. We love the nicknames,

the banter, the laugh, the hair, the massive smile and the welcome that you always give to Stuart and I as parents. We wish you all the best in the future and hope to hear what you're up to now and again.  
Thank you Kami for everything. *Kate Wilson*

What a joy it has been to work with a colleague who showed complete commitment and courage when teaching gymnastics with Year 6. Never afraid to push the children to achieve the skills they were capable of and always willing to learn when we led sessions together.  
Keep cartwheeling and good luck! *Emma Jenkinson*

**Institutions and human bodies are finite, but legacy and influence of an exceptionally passionate, funny and talented primary school teacher, linger forever...**

I've been lucky enough to work with Kami and watch her teach on many occasions in all sorts of settings. Her inspirational classroom, whole school assemblies, the sports field, covered in mud (both of us) and unforgettably, for reasons I won't elaborate on, astride a zip wire at Yenworthy!

My time spent with 'Kami at Kingham' and the memories that arose from it are amongst my most treasured possessions. We bonded immediately and worked hard to create a school ethos that we saw possible based on our shared values and passion for a creative education for our pupils. It was no easy task with national and domestic challenges... there was hardly time to breathe but we always found time to laugh (and cry!)

Brave, mischievous and beautiful with the energy of a five-year old, Kami would light up the classroom, hall, playground, staff room and any dark/damp Monday with a toss of her hair and a "Morning babelicious!"

I have a list of a thousand funny moments and memories. To choose one would devalue the others, so I will just say this...

No one could or can move me to tears like her: tears, as she spoke so movingly to each and every Y6 pupil on their final day at Kingham, and her comments on their final report; tears that could bring me to my knees laughing with her saucy humour; tears of pride when I think of the youngsters whose lives have yet to be enriched by her, and tears of joy that she is poised to give love and be loved for the amazing person she is, in a way she truly deserves. Bon voyage my dearest, beautiful, talented, passionate friend, Kami. *Janet Kempton*

You are a very helpful and joyful character and you love to have a laugh, but you can also be sensible when you need to be. You always forgive us and you love to get active with everything we do, from rounders in PE to algebra in Maths. You are an amazing person that I will truly miss – as will the whole school. I particularly enjoyed the axe throwing where Miss Smith was too scared just to throw it at a wooden target.

*Henry Kimp, Class of '21*

A natural leader, an innovative thinker, an outstandingly creative practitioner, and a confident decision maker come to mind when describing Kami. Our journey began together as I stepped through the school doors to start my NQT year, and what a year it was! I will never forget writing the class assembly together based on the class reader 'Lob', only Kami could have the children belting out 'I will walk 500 miles' by the

Proclaimers to describe Lob's journey through Oxfordshire. Kami sets the goals for us all to aspire to, she has been an inspirational force within Kingham Primary and I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without her as a colleague but also as a loyal and supportive friend. Thank you for everything, it has been a blast! *Jess Ralf*

You are a funny, enthusiastic and thoughtful teacher. From loud laughing to being a brilliant person. You make every lesson fun while, at the same time, full of learning! I feel sorry for Year 5 for just missing out on the best teacher ever!

You are not just an incredible teacher and person, but also a friend to every single one of us. I particularly enjoy PE and active school trips, because of your competitive nature - not that I can talk though! Yet, you are still a supportive, friendly teacher who puts a smile on our faces every day, even on Zoom! Thank you so much! *Dylan Sparvell, Class of '21*

I am sad that I only got to work with Miss Smith for a few months as I know I could have learned a lot from her. Miss Smith has extremely high expectations for her students and her energy and enthusiasm are infectious. The Head's office is adjacent to the Year 6 classroom and for many months I have had the absolute pleasure of being distracted by constant, uproarious laughter coming through the walls.

Ms Smith leaves a lasting legacy of high standards and creativity at Kingham. Kami, I wish you every success in the future. *Nicholas Prockter*

I'm not sure where to start... Kami has been a huge part of my life now for so many years and I will miss her more than she will ever know. There are so many memories, from Lymington to Portugal to Stratford, each one includes so much laughter and normally a few drinks! You have been there for me through everything, and I know you will continue to do so. A true friend for life. I will miss you so very much. *Leigh-Anne Woskett*

### Farewell Class of '21

Farewell to our Year 6 Class of '21 - we shall miss you! It is safe to say that there was not a dry eye in the house following our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly yesterday afternoon. Our Year 6 students head off to their new schools leaving us with wonderful memories of a confident, talented and resilient cohort. Each of you are clearly more than ready for your next step and we thank you for spending your primary years with us and wish you the best of luck.

Please do come back and visit us and let us know how you are getting on. We look forward to learning about your successes in the coming years.



### And finally...

We would like to thank all our parents, students and staff for their support and hard work this year and wish you a very happy and healthy summer holiday.

Our first day of term is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We look forward to seeing you then!