THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR SCHOOL

Oxford Diocesan
BUCKS SCHOOLS TRUST

FULLERS HILL
CHESHAM
BUCKS
HP5 1LR
Tel: 01494 782211
Email: office@tha.odbst.org
Website:www.thomasharding.org.uk

Headteacher:
Mrs S Ruddell BAEd (Hons)

27th February 2026

Interim Headteacher Announcement

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about some staffing changes that come into effect for the summer term. During the forthcoming maternity leave of our Headteacher, Mrs Samantha Ruddell, the school will be led by an interim Headteacher, Mrs Jo Butler. Mrs Ruddell is expecting to start her maternity leave after the Easter break, but you will see her in and around school this half term as well as she works alongside the current leadership.

Mrs Butler joins us with many years of valuable leadership experience and a strong understanding of current educational expectations. She already has a good working knowledge of the school and is ensuring that she has a clear understanding of the Thomas Harding community. She is very much looking forward to working with our pupils, staff and wider community.

To ensure a smooth and well-supported transition, Mrs Butler will be working closely alongside Mrs Ruddell during an extended handover period. This will allow her to become fully familiar with the school and ensure continuity for everyone.

We are confident that Mrs Butler's experience and approach will be a great asset to the school, and that she will continue to build on the positive work already underway.

After the arrival of her little boy in May 2025, we will be welcoming Mrs Naqvi back from maternity leave a couple of weeks after Easter. Mrs Naqvi will resume her position as Deputy Headteacher, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Arnott for all her hard work and support while she has been caretaking this role. Mrs Naqvi will be coming into school several times over the next few weeks to meet with Mrs Ruddell and other leaders in school to prepare for her return- we are thrilled to have her back.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Dr Viraj Rajadhyaksha MD MS FFPM
Chair, Local Governing Board, Thomas Harding Junior School