

**MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



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**Principal (Acting):** Mr P Ritchie (BSc, MEd, PGCE)

2 November 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Update on appointment of principal**

I wrote to you all at the start of the year about the appointment of a new principal and my decision not to apply myself. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contacted or spoken to me privately about this decision, your support and warm wishes are very much appreciated.

As you will know I am not allowed to have any part in the process in appointing the new principal. Even as the teacher rep on the Board of Governors or as Acting Principal and acting Secretary to the governors I am not allowed to be a part of it in any way. Therefore, it has been a frustration to see the start of the process delayed, despite the best efforts of the chair of our governors Ruth Irwin.

I am now able to confirm that the job of principal of Mullavilly Primary has now been advertised. It is anticipated interviews will take place by the end of November. I will endeavour to inform you of the successful candidate before the Christmas holidays, once all the required paperwork and checks have been made.

Given the delay in beginning this process it is now anticipated the new principal would take up their position at the beginning of Term 3. This is due to a 3-month notice period having to be served. It is possible, this period could be shortened if the new principal's current school agreed. I will keep you up to date in this regard.

It is not lost on me that by the time a new principal begins, I will have been acting principal for more than 1 year – a significant length of time in the life of a school. I will be working very hard to make the transition to the new principal as smooth as possible. And while I am looking forward to taking a step back and concentrating on teaching P5/6, I will still be here for every member of our school community and will support and help in any way I can.

Yours sincerely



P Ritchie (Acting Principal)