

I remember when I cut my leg and was crying on the playground and Mr. Jackson came over and helped me to first aid.

I remember whenever we did a good play he would say nice things about it and make some funny jokes about parts that we did.

Andrew Jackson leaves Goxhill Primary School

The governing body announce the departure of our head at Goxhill Primary after 11 years.

Andrew Jackson came to Goxhill school in 1997 after the school had had a very poor OFSTED inspection. Obviously wanting a challenge he was appointed as Deputy Head teacher and joined from a neighbouring local authority (Hull Education Department) He joined the then Head Mr J Bailey. He quickly became a hit at the school and with the local authority since having been in post for a very short time he was quickly snaffled by North Lincolnshire Council to spearhead Westcliffe Primary School as a trouble shooter to put that school back on course.

Rejoining Goxhill School he then became Headteacher in 2001 upon the retirement of John Bailey.

Andrew's approachable manner and clear management skills quickly came to the fore and he established a strong management team with Karen Jackson as Deputy Headteacher and Phill Brown as senior teacher.

His vision for the school was to move it to the forefront of education provision in the North Lincolnshire area. Many parents from outside the Goxhill parish realised the benefits Goxhill Primary School had to offer and our numbers on roll reached an all time high of 252 with nearly 25% of the pupils from outside Goxhill. He has project managed two major building works at the school namely two extra classrooms and just recently the Office and three extra multi purpose rooms for the benefit of teaching.

Andrew not being satisfied with that continued to strive with the school and it was this year that two matters of events were recognised.

Firstly the school came in the top 11% in the country for achievement and secondly and by far the best achievement we had an OFSTED inspection. Andrew and his management team have turned the school around from 1997 OFSTED inspection of being a school of concern, to 2008 OFSTED inspection of a Good School with many outstanding features. The Inspector clearly identified Andrews's leadership and management of the school and praised these efforts as outstanding.

Andrew has certainly made his mark on the school, its pupils and parents and it is now with regret that Andrew has been headhunted by his old Local Authority and has been offered the post of Headship at a very large primary School in Hull. That school lying in a very heavily populated area has Government support for the whole school to be knocked down and rebuilt. Andrew has taken up this challenge and now leaves us in December 2008.

The governing body are obviously delighted for Andrew but with regret realised that to hold him back would not be in the best interest of both Andrew and children in general and therefore accepted his resignation.

I personally have thoroughly enjoyed working with Andrew and on behalf of the whole Governing Body wish him well for the future, he will be missed at the school and no doubt will be a hard act to follow.

Well Done Andrew

Mike Gathercole, Chair of Goxhill School Governing Body

It was with deep sadness that I heard of the recent death of Ethel Collingwood. I have known Ethel for the last 24 years as a colleague and friend. When I was appointed as the head of Goxhill School in 1984, Ethel immediately made me so welcome and eased a very anxious and nervous new head into the post.

I well remember my first day at Goxhill and the immediate impact of Ethel's kindness. I had had to leave my wife and young family back in Long Bennington near Grantham where I lived as we had still not managed to buy a house. I got lodgings in Barrow that were adequate but hardly home. Ethel straight away recognised my concerns and within 24 hours had consulted with Jane and Robert Arnott [daughter and son-in-law]. A solution was found and I moved into a part of Jane and Robert's home on Church Side. I remember the weather was very cold with significant snow but the warm welcome and lovely cheery coal fire helped to thaw my problems. I was to be on Churchside for eight weeks until my family were able to move to Bonby. The kindness did not stop there as after we had moved in to a house that had not been lived in for 18 months, Ethel and Ross Coggan, then caretaker at the school, with several well organised helpers descended on the house to give it a good clean and make it habitable.

Ethel, of course, was a brilliant school secretary who knew the school backwards, having been there since the mid 1950s. I was her fifth headteacher and her knowledge of the area as well as her contacts with office staff at Humberside County Council offices at Scunthorpe made my job a lot easier.

It was a sad day when she had to retire as she had reached a certain age but the school still relied on her heavily over the next 20 years, working in an unofficial capacity for both Andrew Jackson and myself. I never had to worry about the running of parents' evenings, Christmas parties, school photographs and numerous other events, which Ethel organised superbly. She also assisted in the classroom on a regular basis helping staff in various roles, such as hearing children read and working with craft activities. The village and school owe an enormous amount to Ethel. She will be much missed and, if I may be permitted, I echo the thanks of present day and past staff and raise a glass to the memory of Ethel, with sincere condolences to Jane and grandson, Edward.

John Bailey [Headteacher 1985-2001]