



# Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

**Headteacher:** Mrs Jackie Chambers  
**Deputy:** Mr Jon Gambell  
**Chair of Governors:** Mrs Rebecca Emson



*Nurtured We Flourish*

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Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

**Mr Gambell**

Dear Families,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you that Mr Gambell will be leaving Harrietsham Church of England Primary School at the end of Term 4 (end of April 2026). I am sure this news will come as a shock to you all and that you, too, will agree that the school will not be quite the same without Mr Gambell in it.

Mr Gambell has been at Harrietsham since September 2022 and he has been a consistent leader throughout some very unstable times for the school. Shortly after Mr Gambell joined the school as Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Waller-Davies retired. The school then went through a period of being unable to recruit a substantive Headteacher and Mrs Deevoy supported whilst Mr Gambell acted up as Head of School. Following this, I was appointed – another significant change for the school. Throughout all of this, Mr Gambell was there – his kind and supportive manner providing much needed consistent leadership for the children, staff and families. The value of this consistent leadership throughout this uncertain period for the school cannot be underestimated and I know how much you all appreciate Mr Gambell for this.

Personally, my start at Harrietsham has been made so much easier, and so much more enjoyable, with Mr Gambell as my Deputy. His loyalty has been unwavering, his calm and thoughtful demeanour much welcomed and his knowledge and love for the school has always shone through in all that he does.

However, the time has come for Mr Gambell to move on to new and exciting adventures. This decision was extremely difficult for Mr Gambell, who has always put 110% effort into the job that he does. But, now it is time for us to join together to thank Mr Gambell for his contribution to our school and to wish him the very best of luck for the future. I will be in touch in due course to communicate our plans for saying goodbye.

We have spoken to the children about this news this afternoon so they will be aware and I am sure they will appreciate chatting through this new chapter in the school's history with you.

It didn't feel right to us to send this letter without Mr Gambell saying a few words too. Please see his words below.

*Harrietsham C of E Primary School holds a truly special place in my heart, and it has been an absolute joy to get to know every child during my three and a half years here. I feel incredibly fortunate to have played even a small part in their journeys and hope that, in some way, I have helped to positively shape their futures. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff team, the wonderfully supportive parents, and the generosity of the wider community—each of whom contributes to making Harrietsham the unique and special place it is. Having given so much of my time and energy to teaching and leading within Primary Education, I now feel ready to explore a new challenge beyond the school gates, applying my skills and experience in a different direction.*

Kind regards,

**Jackie Chambers**  
Headteacher



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

