

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Achievement through Commitment

Headteacher: Mr P Mandelstam

22 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you about the leadership arrangements at Alder Coppice following the news that Mr Mandelstam will be leaving the school in January.

The Governing Body has been working carefully to make sure that the school has a strong and well-supported transition over the remainder of this academic year.

I am pleased to confirm that, when Mr Mandelstam leaves in January, Mrs Shee, our current Deputy Headteacher, will step up to lead Alder Coppice until the end of the academic year. Mrs Shee knows the school, its pupils, staff and families extremely well and will provide important continuity during this period. As already planned, Mrs Shee will then retire at the end of the Summer Term.

To provide additional leadership capacity and support throughout this transition, the Governing Body has also asked Mr Amphlett and Mrs Duffin, Executive Directors of Black Country Federation, to work alongside the school.

Many families may already know Mrs Duffin, as she is an existing governor at Alder Coppice and has an established relationship with the school and community. Mr Amphlett is also a former Alder Coppice pupil.

Families who would like to find out more about Black Country Federation, its schools and its work can visit the federation website: <https://www.bcschools.co.uk>

From after October half-term, Mr Amphlett and Mrs Duffin will begin working alongside Mr Mandelstam, Mrs Shee and the wider leadership team. This will give them time to get to know Alder Coppice properly, understand the school's strengths and priorities and provide additional support where it is helpful.

From January, Mr Amphlett and Mrs Duffin will continue to work closely with Mrs Shee and the Governing Body to ensure that the school remains stable, ambitious and well supported throughout the remainder of the academic year.

Our priority throughout is continuity for our children, staff and families. This is about supporting the school and adding capacity where it is useful, not imposing unnecessary change. Alder Coppice has a strong identity and much to be proud of, and we want to protect those strengths while ensuring that leaders have the support and additional experience available to them when they need it.

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Alongside this, governors will carefully plan the recruitment of the right permanent leader for Alder Coppice. We will take the time needed to ensure that any appointment is right for the school, its pupils and its future.

Mr Amphlett and Mrs Duffin are looking forward to becoming increasingly familiar faces around school and to meeting many of you over the coming months. We will, of course, continue to keep families informed as plans progress.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Alder Coppice.

Jacqueline Blake
Chair of Governors
Alder Coppice Primary School