

## Holy Trinity School Christmas Church Service: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Mrs Roscoe's speech – Mr Brown's retirement

Mr Brown!

This is going to be tough as Mr Brown has been the heart and soul of Holy Trinity for over 8 years but I'll try to get through this without crying although I can't make any promises. I'm going to read from here so I do not miss anything.

Where do I start with Mr Brown?

Well, I remember Mrs Henton saying to me many years ago that there was a volunteer who was thinking about a change of career and wanted to give his time to the school to see if teaching was for him. On his first morning with me in Acorns I asked him to play in the role play area with the children – it was a doctor's surgery and could he demonstrate being a receptionist, patient, doctor and nurse. He responded with "absolutely but not all at the same time!".

After a short time, all the children wanted to be in the role play area with him as he was giving a BAFTA winning performance of a patient who needed urgent care and the children were bandaging his head, arms and feet! He quickly changed characters to be the receptionist and his finale was the doctor – for the rest of the year the way the children played in the doctor's surgery was incredible due to his enthusiasm, energy and imagination – this is a true skill to be able to play with the children in this way and one not as many adults as you think possess. It was at this point I knew he was destined for a career in teaching but specifically Early Years, he had a real gift for having fun with the children but teaching them at the same time.

He continued to volunteer and not only built a rapport with the class quickly but also the staff. We convinced him teaching was the right career path but he was unsure as he would keep saying "I'm a grandad already, I'm too old" but we are a persistent bunch when we know someone is meant to be in a classroom. I had the pleasure of training Mr Brown during his SCITT placement at Holy Trinity and his attention to detail was second to none, Mr Brown is a perfectionist – he will never cut corners with anything no matter how much longer it will take. I remember he had to undertake a placement at another local school but he couldn't wait to get back as he said nowhere compares to Holy Trinity and this is where his heart is – he has always been adamant he would only want to teach here as it is such a special place with wonderful children, parents and staff and I'm pleased to say we have been the only school for him!

Mr Brown obviously passed the teaching course with flying colours and luckily there was a job opportunity with us which meant he could become the Reception teacher. I loved walking through his room hearing his interactions with the children but also his story telling, which is legendary. We worked together across EYFS having lots of fun and excitement with the children before I went on maternity leave but I knew Early Years was in very safe hands.

He has taught the majority of children in the school today with his own unique style and magic touch of clearing his throat which makes the class fall instantly silent. He has never lost his sense of humour and being able to see things the way the children do which makes him such a fabulous teacher.

During his time at school Mr Brown has always been the first to offer help or support when anyone needs it, even if it then means he needs to work later to finish what he has to do. He has been our knight in shining armour on too many occasions to mention and always thrown himself into pantos, songs, videos, residentials, sports days - which is was the master of coordinating - and our go to guy for anything artistic or creative.

Throughout the last two years with the lockdowns he was the person Mrs Rodenas and I could turn to for support with the plans we needed to put in place quickly in the evenings and weekends. He would always just ask "what can I do to help?" and would be with us to the bitter end no matter how late it was.

Mr Brown has also been a Staff Governor for many years and extremely valued by all.

For those of you lucky enough to have spent any time chatting to Mr Brown you will know he does not like his first name so he will forever be 'Mr Brown' to us. Also, in his past career, he had many adventures and excitement. He always has a tale to tell about celebrities and the life he used to have including giving the microphone to Freddie Mercury on stage before he sang at Live Aid and - one of my personal favourites - is him being in a helicopter with Take That; also his punk years with different colours hair in many styles but I'm still to see the photos and too many others to mention right now but try to meet him for a coffee to listen to more, you will not regret it! He has always said even with the adventures in his life before teaching the last few years of his working life here at Holy Trinity have been the most rewarding.

Mr Brown loves music and would often turn up Queen when he was in school late or at the weekends, he also likes to drive and would use this as a way to relax and get away from the pressures of a very stressful job. He also adores his Grandchildren and will hopefully get to spend a lot more time with them from now on.

Mr Brown, you have been such a valued, respected and loved member of the Holy Trinity family and nothing I say now could ever be enough to convey how much we are ALL going to miss you and also, personally, you have been the best friend and colleague anyone could ever have. From making sure we eat and drink at some point each day and looking after our children when ASC has finished but we are still in meetings, this will always be a highlight of our children's memories at Holy Trinity – we can never repay you for all these above and beyond things that no one ever normally sees.

We hope you follow in the footsteps of many other incredible staff we have been privileged to work with who retire but never really leave Holy Trinity, they just come back in different roles.

It has been an absolute pleasure spending the last 8 years with you, seeing how you spent so much time making learning fun for the children and going above and beyond for them and everyone else. Please continue to be part of our family but also enjoy a very long, overdue rest and make time for all the things you want to do but this job hasn't allowed for.

Thank you for everything and always remember "it will be fine" - our very overused saying.

We have a small gift as a token of our appreciation for your service to the children, school and community please come up to receive it.