

Whitewater C. of E. Primary School

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Executive Headteacher Mr G Golding



*Fellowship, Courage
and Creativity*

Whitewater Vision

Developing values and skills of the Christian faith
Including everyone
Nurturing everyone's talents
Life long learning

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a sense of both pride and excitement that I write my first letter to introduce both myself and Mr Steve Moore.

As of the 1st of December Whitewater C of E Primary School has joined the Bishopswood and Bramley Collaboration of schools where I have been the Executive Headteacher for over 10 years. Mr Steve Moore is the Head of School of Bramley C of E Primary School and between the two of us we will be leading your school for the next two terms. Although initially this agreement is in place until the end of August 2022, it is very much our aim to plan for long term sustainable improvement for the school. Whitewater C of E Primary School has all the ingredients required to be a very successful school. The children are charming and eager to learn, the staff and Governors are committed and passionate and from what I have seen so far the parents are very supportive.

I would like to thank those parents who attended the introduction meeting on Tuesday night and those parents who have taken the time to say hello at the start and end of the school day. Mr Moore and I appreciate both the welcome we have received and the views that you have shared. As we move forward over the coming weeks I will be seeking your views further through a parent's survey for, as the major stakeholders of the school, your views are extremely important to us and will help to shape the improvement priorities of the school.

As I am sure you are aware, Whitewater C of E Primary School is currently in a period of transition. There have been recent changes in leadership and changes to both the teaching and support staff. These changes are not uncommon for a school in Whitewater's position and regretfully I do need to inform you of some further changes to staffing taking place for January. These changes were confirmed prior to the school joining the collaboration and although we did not take over leadership responsibility until the Wednesday of this week, we have been supporting recruitment behind the scenes to ensure we are fully staffed for January.

The following members of staff will be moving on to new ventures in the New Year.

After 12 years of dedicated service Mrs Lauren Sharp, one of our HLTA's and Senior Lunchtime Supervisor has taken the tough decision to leave in order to spend more time utilising her significant artistic skills. Lauren is a hugely popular member of the team whose care and compassion towards the children and fellow colleagues will be sadly missed.

In addition, Mrs Elaine Basham will be departing to focus more of her time and energy on her young family. Mrs Basham joined us this September and recently stepped up to lead Fox Class following Mr Reynolds' sudden departure. I would like to thank her for the hard work and flexibility that she has displayed during her time with us. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Finally, I need to inform you that Ms Ailsa Lamble will also be leaving. Ms Lamble has worked at the school for just over 3 years. During this time she has displayed dedication, leadership and commitment to the children and staff of Whitewater C of E Primary School. Ms Lamble will be hugely missed for not only her



professionalism but for the many personal qualities she brings to the team. Mrs Lamble leaves us due to relocating to Dorset in the New Year. She leaves with our sincere best wishes for the future.

Although it is sad for members of our school community to be leaving, we are fully staffed for January with experienced new teaching and support staff joining us. I am confident that the qualities that they bring will further support Whitewater C of E Primary School on its journey back to Good and beyond. I will write to you again next week introducing the new members of the team as for now I feel it most appropriate to focus and give thanks to the departing team members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Caroline Welch for the work that she has undertaken supporting the school these last few months as Acting Headteacher. The work that she has done provides a good foundation for us to build upon. Mrs Welch has also very generously offered to work with us whenever needed as we move forward.

I apologise that this, my first newsletter to you, contains some news that you will undoubtedly find disappointing and unsettling. This would not be my first choice for introductory letters. I am however confident that team we have in place for January and the plans we have for rapid improvement will ensure that 2022 is a successful and stabilising year for the whole school community. I will write next week sharing the details of staffing and future plans.

Both Mr Moore and I are looking forward to working with you and always welcome any parents or carers to contact us should you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely

G Golding

Mr G Golding
Executive Headteacher
Whitewater C of E Primary School

