



Cumnor CE Primary School

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Headteacher Mr Steven Badger

Friday 1st September 2023

Welcome back!

Dear families,

It is a great honour to be writing this letter as the new headteacher of Cumnor Primary School. When I first entered the school for a visit, I was overwhelmed with a sense of what a truly wonderful place this is to learn and to work. This is undoubtedly due to the hard work of all of the dedicated and talented staff, including Mr Read and Mrs Axford, who I know have been such a huge part of the school for a long time. They handed over to me with such care and attention, ensuring that I felt as welcome as possible. I have spent the interim period meeting with staff and governors with a view to understanding what it is that makes Cumnor such a wonderful and special place. Through discussion, the word 'privilege' came up time and time again. Staff were referring to how they feel about being part of the community and made me feel incredibly lucky to be able to now call them my colleagues.

I'm sure many of you will be keen to know a little more about me. I've lived in Oxfordshire my whole life and I've worked in Didcot for the past twelve years. I've valued the experiences I have gained working alongside a wide range of different leaders and in different capacities. As well as teaching across the primary age range, I've held the posts of Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Acting Head. I also worked as an Improvement Lead supporting 34 Primary Schools with their assessment practices. As part of introducing myself to you, I feel it's important to know what the staff at my previous school felt defined my leadership style. When completing a 360 review, they felt that I act in line with a clear set of personal values, lead by example, with credibility, organise, inspire and provide effective praise. Outside of school, I take a keen interest in theatre (particularly musical theatre) and I run an amateur group in my town. I'm also a keen football fan and hold a season ticket at Reading with my Mum! On a personal level, this coming April I'll be getting married in Yorkshire which I'm really looking forward to. My fiancé is a teacher too and she is looking forward to coming along to some school events throughout the year.

Please rest assured that consolidating and building on the successes of Cumnor Primary School will be my first priority. I firmly believe in doing the best for all of the children that we work with and recognise the importance of effective two-way communication between home and school. Ensuring that your child is happy and safe, with access to an excellent education which supports their development as an individual is absolutely the core purpose of what we do.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children over the course of the first term and thank those who have already welcomed me so warmly.

Best wishes,
Steven Badger
Headteacher