

# The Blake School Newsletter - 10th September 2021

## Welcome!

I am delighted to welcome you back to The Blake School, or to welcome you to the school for the first time. It is a pleasure to have you all as part of our community.

If we did not know it before, the pandemic months have demonstrated beyond doubt the importance of communication. We continue to offer the open door policy, which we value so much. If you have any questions, concerns, or would simply value a conversation, please do get in touch with us. You can speak to class teachers on the door if your query is quick and easy or make an appointment to come in for a longer chat; you can also always contact the office by email or phone.

I am delighted that across the school, children have settled in well and there is already some great learning taking place. I have really enjoyed walking around the school talking to your children and watching their interactions with their peers and their teachers. It is clear that good relationships are already being formed and there is anticipation of all that is to come in the year ahead. Next week you will be receiving curriculum letters, which will detail the learning that your children will be covering over the coming months, there is so much to look forward to.

This week in Collective Worship we have started to think about our value of the month, Caring. In particular, we have been thinking about caring through service, reflecting on the importance of serving without any expectation of receiving anything in return. This attitude is a real challenge for all of us, because our culture tends to say 'You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours', but the Christian principle is the joy that there is in service, even when there is no return.

As a school team it is our pleasure and privilege to serve our community. During our INSET days last week we reflected together on how we can best serve you and your children. We are all looking forward very much to continuing to serve you all through the year and to travelling together through whatever the year will bring.

As you are aware, the year has begun with a number of Covid-19 cases. We have six current cases in Year 5 and two in our Early Years Unit. We have implemented a number of our contingency plans to reduce the risk of transmission and will continue to do so in the coming weeks, responding to cases as and when they arise. It is beyond doubt that Covid-19 is here to stay and so as a school community we will need to learn how best to live with it, whilst reducing the impact that it has on children's learning and attendance at school. As always we appreciate your feedback on this.

As I began by welcoming you, I would like to close by welcoming three new members of staff who have joined us this year. Mrs Henderson and Mr Walker have joined the Year 6 team as class teachers and Mrs Piper has joined the Early Years team as a Teaching Assistant. You may also see Mrs Piper popping up around the school as a teacher as she holds a teaching qualification, but is currently choosing to work as a TA. On the INSET day we began to get to know them by asking them some 'Would you rather...?' questions; whether to have a neck like a giraffe or a trunk like an elephant was one of the most discussed! It has been great this week to get to know them a bit more and to introduce them to our wider community. You can read more about them below.

This week is the first of our new style newsletters. On Fridays we will be sending home some news from me and from around the school. During the week, usually on a Wednesday, we will be sending home notices and information, so do look out for the first of these during next week.

At the end of the first full week, the children are all tired. I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Tim Edwards-Grundy



### Mrs Henderson

I am originally from Cape Town in South Africa, but I have been in the UK for 20 years now.

I am passionate about teaching and come from a family of teachers going back for five generations. Being part of the journey of learning and learning alongside children is a great privilege.

When I am not in school I love a game of tennis or a walk in the country and although my domestic skills are still a work in progress, I love hosting BBQs, which my husband cooks.

### Mrs Piper

I was born and raised in South Africa. Since arriving in the UK 8 months ago, I have found a new love for long, exploratory walks, freezing cold weather and Maltesers. I love to cook and bake, and do anything crafty with my daughters. I would choose the mountains for a holiday, and tea over coffee any day!

I find it an absolute privilege to be able to journey with young children on their road to success, supporting them and guiding them to strive for, and reach, their full potential.



### Mr Walker

I have relocated from Manchester over the summer and grew up in the Lake District.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, running and visiting new places. One of my favourite destinations is Krakow at Christmas.

I am looking forward to exploring the Cotswolds in the school holidays!

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know the wider school community at the Blake.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community