

POLEHAMPTON CE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Polehampton CE Infant School
Hermitage Drive, Twyford RG10 9HS
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Polehampton CE Junior School
Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford RG10 9AX
0118 934 1138



Executive Headteacher
Mr P Sherwood

Heads of School
Mrs L Castell and Mrs H Medcalf

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new term - I hope your child/ren have settled in to a new academic year at Polehampton. As the new Executive Headteacher, I wanted to express my pride on being able to be part of these two wonderful schools. We have lots we want to achieve to continue growing, developing and enhancing the offer we have for the pupils of Polehampton, and I am excited to work with the team to make this a reality. For those who have not met me yet, I am also the Headteacher at Sonning CE School and this is my ninth year as a Headteacher in my career. Previous to Sonning, I was Headteacher in a primary school in Bracknell Forest. I have also been involved with school improvement (through the Department for Education's National Leader of Education programme), teacher training and leadership development. I also hold a National Professional Qualification in Executive Leadership.

Our School Improvement Plan (which is a key document schools have to identify key priorities and actions) has the following priorities which we feel are of focus for Polehampton:

1. To further enhance the curriculum and school vision to have an even greater impact on all learners.
2. To ensure provision for all pupil groups allows for the best possible high-quality learning, especially in English.
3. To continue to develop the therapeutic approach to behaviour and attitudes across the school by enhancing parental understanding of the approach as well as ensuring pupils have time to reflect on their own behaviour and learning.
4. To grow and develop a more collaborative approach across the federated schools, including best practice, staffing, structure and resources.

These priorities will drive our actions throughout the year, as they did last year. Our targets are three-year priorities, and we are in Year 2 of 3 now.

This week, we have launched our adverts for class teachers and an Assistant Headteacher. The class teacher advert is due to the possibility of internal applications for the Assistant Headteacher role: if a current teacher is appointed as Assistant Headteacher we will require a strong teacher to take their place, so the two adverts running concurrently will ensure no time is lost in recruitment and providing the best for the pupils. This term, we have our acting roles in place:

- Miss Heckert: Acting EYFS and Key Stage 1 Leader
- Mrs Petrie: Acting Key Stage 2 Leader
- Mrs Scott, Miss Davis and Miss Ackerman: Acting Assistant Headteachers

These roles will provide essential leadership support. Therefore, we have a larger leadership structure and distributed leadership for engaging with pupils, staff and families. With this in mind, please do not be offended if, when you request to speak with a Head of School, you get a Key Stage Lead or Assistant Headteacher instead. This is about us ensuring all families have a range of staff with whom to communicate, and allows us (as a senior leadership team) to be able to support families more effectively. We are equally - if not more! - accessible, but not always the Heads of School due to their (and my) increased responsibility across both Polehampton schools.

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16)

Gratitude - Friendship - Perseverance - Forgiveness - Honesty - Compassion



Finally, I would like to thank all families for their continued positivity, engagement and commitment to our schools. We are all very much looking forward to the year ahead and what we can achieve.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Sherwood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Phil Sherwood
Executive Headteacher

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