



Thorpe Church of England Primary School

Faith, Love and Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Joe Blaney

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of our wonderful primary school at the heart of this inclusive and welcoming community. It is a privilege to take on this role and I look forward to working with you to ensure we continue to provide the very best education and experiences for your children.

By way of introduction, I live in Claygate with my wife and our two sons, aged 17 and 18. My most recent post was at The Royal Kent School in Oxshott where I served as Deputy Headteacher for eight years. Last year I also undertook the role of Interim Headteacher for the spring term, which confirmed my ambition to continue my career in headship. Alongside my leadership responsibilities, I have also been Maths and PE Co-ordinator, as well as a Governor. I am passionate about both mathematics and physical education and have always championed giving children opportunities in sport and exercise. Not only for their enjoyment and personal achievement but also to support their health and wellbeing.

Yesterday during our staff INSET day, we reflected on the importance of high expectations in behaviour which we call *'The Thorpe Way.'* Together we explored how these expectations supported by consistent routines, help create positive and purposeful learning environments. We also revisited the importance of wearing full school uniform as it encourages children to feel proud, valued and committed members of our school community.

I would like to share some of these discussion points with you at a **Headteacher's Parent Drop-In session on Thursday 25th September at 2:50pm**. This will also be a valuable opportunity for me to hear what you value most about our school, as well as your hopes for the future. I am very keen to listen to your views and for you to get to know me better too.

On another note, I am aware of several posts that has circulated on various social media sites in recent days, and I would like to thank those parents who have brought this to our attention. Although I have not seen the posts directly, I want to reassure you that the claims made are untrue. Our school site, like other local nurseries and schools, remains extremely secure throughout the day. Visitors are monitored and required to sign in, gates are locked, and staff always remain vigilant. In addition, we have well-established lockdown procedures and staff are fully trained to respond appropriately should the unlikely need ever arise.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you at drop-off and pick-up over the coming weeks as I start to get to know all our families. Together we can ensure the children of our school continue to thrive in a supportive and inspiring environment.

With best wishes,

Mr Joe Blaney

Headteacher
