HORNBEAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mongeham Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9PQ
Headteacher: Mrs Harkins | Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jones
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Learn to Love Learning to Live Life Better

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Hornbeam Primary School and to say thank you for the incredibly warm welcome I have received over the past few days. Please do continue to stop and say hello at the school gate. One of the things I value most is getting to know the families and community that make a school so special, and I am always happy to have a chat whenever the opportunity arises.

From my very first visit to Hornbeam, I knew there was something special about the school. It is a privilege to now begin my headship journey here and build upon the excellent foundations that are already in place.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting many of the children and can honestly say they are an absolute delight. Last week, I held my first whole-school assembly where I welcomed everyone back and reintroduced Hetty the Hedgehog. She has been popping up all around the school and the children have loved trying to spot her! Along the way, Hetty is helping me to encourage the qualities we all want to see in our pupils by reminding children to be helpful, engaged and responsible every day.

Over the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to really getting stuck in. I cannot wait to spend time on the playground, watch the learning taking place, explore the learning environment and, most importantly, continue building strong relationships with our children, families and wider community.

Education has always been at the heart of who I am. As a child, I would spend hours writing registers for my teddy bears in birthday cards and setting up my own miniature classroom. In many ways, I have never really left education: from primary school to secondary school, sixth form, university and then into teaching as a Newly Qualified Teacher 18 years ago, schools have always been where I have felt most at home. It is therefore a real privilege to now lead a school community of my own.

As Headteacher, the children will be at the centre of every decision I make. I am passionate about working alongside our talented team to provide the very best opportunities for every child, ensuring they feel valued, supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.

I am committed to taking the time to listen, learn and understand what makes our school unique, and I look forward to building on these strengths as we continue to develop and grow together. There are some exciting developments ahead, so watch this space!

Thank you once again for your warm welcome. I look forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming months and to working together to ensure Hornbeam continues to flourish.

Warm regards,

Mrs S Harkins
Headteacher