



Durham Lane Primary School

Head Teacher : Mrs J.A.C Ball
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5th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Head Teacher Appointment

Our school is amazing and the last few days have proved this, yet again! Your children displayed hugely impressive levels of respect and reflection, supporting all three candidates equally; they seem to have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Head Teacher appointment activities. They came up with some very searching and thought-provoking questions for the School Council members to ask the candidates. Congratulations to them and to our wonderful staff who have done everything that they could to ensure the smooth running of the process.

I am delighted to inform you that the Selection Panel of our Governing Body has been able to successfully appoint a new Head Teacher for September 2020. Her name is Mrs. Helen Gregory and she is currently Assistant Head at Barleyfields Primary in Ingleby Barwick. I met with Mrs. Gregory when I showed her round in January and I was really impressed with her knowledge, experience and understanding of the role of Head Teacher. I spoke to her again this morning and she is absolutely thrilled to have been appointed here, particularly as our ethos of 'the child at the centre of everything' is very much in line with her own. The governors spent a great deal of time assessing each candidate's previous experience as well as their performance in the interviews and are extremely confident that they have made the very best of appointments from a very strong field.

Over the summer term, Mrs. Gregory will be able to visit Durham Lane to start getting to know children and staff, as well as working with me and other Leadership Team members to ensure a smooth transition.

Making this appointment has been extremely time-consuming for our governors and they have also felt under a great deal of pressure to make the right decision for our school! I would like to thank our Chair of Governors, Clair Robinson, who has given a phenomenal amount of time to the school in showing round candidates with me, as well as contributing hugely to all relevant Selection Panel meetings. I'd also like to thank Alison Corner (Vice Chair), Kate Neilson and Tom Ripley for working so hard on the Selection Panel, as well as Maureen Rigg who attended all meetings as a 'spare', but then didn't actually get the chance to be involved. Finally, I'd like to thank our fabulous Deputy Head and staff governor, Elaine Barrett, for the huge amount of work she put into the whole process, working closely with the other governors to ensure that a successful appointment was made.

I wish Mrs. Gregory every happiness and success when she takes over in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J.A.C. Ball
Head Teacher