



Berry Hill Primary & Nursery School  
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Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

### A very warm welcome

Now that I am beginning to find my feet here at school, I wanted to introduce myself properly as Berry Hill's new head teacher. Berry Hill is a school with a great heritage and I look forward to stewarding school through the coming years. As I write to you, I'm very aware that the pandemic has affected many aspects of school life, and as a parent myself, I know that home/school relationships may feel more distanced. Please know, that as soon as the circumstances allow it, we are very much looking forward to being able to welcome parents, carers and grandparents into school much more often. I did want to share that I have been overwhelmed by how friendly and welcoming each and every child has been since I have arrived and I wanted to thank you all for raising such kind and friendly children!

Although I have met many of you briefly on the school gate in the mornings, I realise that it will take some time for families to get to know me. I've been a teacher for the past 16 years or so, having worked in a variety of roles around the Mansfield area. Throughout my career I have always tried to put children at the heart of everything and will do all I can to ensure that Berry Hill is synonymous with happy children who reach their potential.

### Staff Changes

As well as myself, we have several other new members of staff this term. Mrs Harris joins us from my previous school as one of our two Level 5 TAs. She will be helping us lead our wonderful support team in Key Stage 1 and our Early Years Foundation Stage. We also have Mrs Kenworthy who has started with us after Christmas too, providing help, care and nurture in our Foundation Stage. I am also delighted to welcome 2 new midday supervisors: Mrs Edwards and Mrs Francis. This is an aspect of Berry Hill where we often find ourselves in need of kind people to help our children have a calm and fun lunchtime. If we have any other parents, carers, aunties, uncles or grandparents who would be interested in being a midday supervisor, or anyone who would be prepared to be contacted to work every now and again in the event of a staffing shortage, please contact our school office.

## Early Focus Areas

I wanted to share with you some of the early priorities I shall be working on alongside Berry Hill's leadership team. These include:

- continuing to spend as much time in classrooms as I can to get to know all of our children
- carrying on the school's great work in developing a vibrant and tailored curriculum
- sharing with families our new behaviour policy as soon as it is completed
- reinstating the opportunity for our whole school to be together more often by bringing back more in-person assemblies
- pledging to not change Berry Hill's uniform!

## School Trips and Visitors

I am very aware that many of our children's experiences have been limited over the past couple of years. I am a big believer in the educational value of school trips and know that these can be some of the most memorable days of a child's time at school and it is sad that for some pupils they may never have been on any yet. I am pleased that swimming lessons have been possible again for some year groups and that inter-school sports competitions are returning again – these are important milestones as we try and return to more normal times. We shall look to strike the right balance between providing these fantastic opportunities and ensuring that we are keeping our school community as Covid-secure as the circumstances dictate. Keep an eye out for trips and visitors letters which will hopefully be received over the coming weeks.

## Spring Term Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings are planned in for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March and will take place between 4:00pm and 6:30pm. At this moment in time we are hoping to offer parents the opportunity to come into school to have these meetings face to face – it would be lovely to give you a chance to see your children's work and it is genuinely so much better to talk face to face than on a screen. As with everything, we will assess how things are a little nearer the time and let you know as soon as we are able. Even if it is safe for in-person parents' evening, we know that not everyone may feel comfortable to attend in this way. For anyone who feels this way, we will try to offer an online appointment instead.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind all families that we have a nut-free policy as we have some pupils with life-threatening allergies – we appreciate everyone's co-operation with this.

Kind regards



Mr B. Trenowden