

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Staffing Changes at West Moors Middle School

I am writing to let you know that we will have some new staff joining the West Moors Middle School team. This is an exciting time for us and I always like to look at change as positive, however with new staff joining us it means there will be a sad farewell to get through first.

Mrs Utley has decided to move a lot closer to home in order to have more time with her family so rather than having a forty minute commute to work each day, her commute after half term (when we hope schools will re-open), will be less than ten minutes to work each day. Mrs Utley is a sad loss as along with her wonderful teaching, she has also led on some key aspects for us, including co-ordinating the history curriculum and working closely with our school's Special Needs Co-ordinator to support children with EHCPs. We will miss her greatly but we understand the difficult decision she has had to make and we wish her every happiness on her new journey.

However, despite the national crisis with Covid-19, we have made three excellent appointments of outstanding teachers who share our school's vision and are committed to holistic development of all children to enable them to be the best that they can. The Chair of Governors was involved in the recruitment process to appoint these high quality and pivotal positions, including Mrs Tai, our full time SENDCo who is currently working with our wonderful Miss Bazell, Mrs Amabile our experienced Year 5 Teacher, who many of you will already know, and Mr Der, our experienced Mathematics Lead. They would like to introduce themselves to you and our amazing children:-



Hello, my name is Mrs Tai and I am a secondary trained English Teacher. I have spent a significant part of my teaching career working with SEND students with a specific focus on Literacy. I have taught in Ringwood, Arnewood, Twynham and more recently been Whole School Literacy Lead and Head of KS3 English for 7 years at my previous school. In my spare time I try to read as much as possible and enjoy cycling and running. Before training to teach I worked in the financial services Industry for 10 years.



Hello, my name is Mr Dér and I have been teaching Mathematics for the past 30 years, from Year 3 up to A-level. I have been Head of Mathematics at a large comprehensive secondary school, a primary school and several middle schools here in Dorset. I think middle schools are great; stimulating, caring, inspiring at a child's key developmental age.

Recently the Easter bunny has enthused me to take on a new mission to teach at West Moors Middle school, rescuing children from a lifetime phobia of maths. So here I am . . . and no children! When school resumes I shall be the Maths lead, preparing pupils for the exciting and demanding challenges of mathematics. My aims for each child are to develop their:

- *Success* in school and in life skills
- *Excitement* about mathematics and prepare them for the future(both in a practical sense and in their school life)
- *Self-confidence* (independently and as a team)

I would love the pupils to appreciate that Mathematics is a human activity, a social phenomenon, a set of methods used to help illuminate the world. I will do my best to inspire them and provide a foundation in which that can take-off from at their next school to "infinity and beyond" (to quote Buzz Lightyear). I look forward to meeting you all.



Hello, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Amabile and I have been a Primary School Teacher for the last 21 years. Some of you may already be familiar with my name, as for part of my career, I previously worked as Deputy Head and teacher at Oakhurst Community First School. I have 2 sons, aged 15 and 12, and together we enjoy swimming, cycling and cooking. Our favourite places to visit are our beautiful local beaches and the New Forest. I have been lucky enough to have been on some exciting adventures including: completing a challenge for a charity, where I swam from Bournemouth to Boscombe Pier, and I have climbed Mount Vesuvius. I am extremely excited about working within West Moors Middle School, to be back in your local community! I am really looking forward to getting to know you all, and especially getting to use the cooking and sewing facilities you have on offer! I hope that you are all keeping well and safe and I look forward to meeting you soon.

As a team, we are really excited by these appointments and the high quality of education provision that they will provide for our children. In addition, I am delighted to share that Mrs Parkes has returned to work after her maternity leave so I know that the children will be happy to see her back teaching them Modern Foreign Languages again.

One final piece of wonderful news is that Mrs Watkins has been promoted to the role of Assistant Headteacher and has been leading our 'Big Ideas' curriculum review with exciting, new cohesive cross-curricular topics being implemented in all year groups from September 2020! More details will follow as the West Moors Middle team share in our school's vision to support our children to **thrive to achieve their best – together**. The different values that we hold dear and work to promote within our school includes the **3Rs, 3Is** and **4Cs**:

**3Rs: respect, resilience, reflectiveness**

**3Is: inclusiveness, imaginative, independence**

**4Cs: collaborative, courageous, compassionate and confident**

I am incredibly enthused by the passion, diligence and commitment to children in our community that all staff have shown and I am very optimistic about our school's future with a stable, dedicated staff team who puts our children's needs first- this is what all of our children deserve. Presently, we are planning transition opportunities for when the school re-opens so the children will have plenty of opportunities to meet these new members of staff.

If you have any questions or comments about this news, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We wish Mrs Utley the very best of luck for the future and thank her for her contribution to West Moors Middle School.

Kind regards,



Dr D Craddock

Head teacher