

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for Austrey and Newton Regis Schools. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I have been a Teacher since 1992 and have worked as a teacher and Senior Leader in schools since then across the Midlands. Most recently, I have been the Deputy Headteacher at Barlestone CE Primary School in Leicestershire. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to take over the leadership of these schools.

I live in Tamworth with my husband and two teenage daughters.

This is not the letter that I expected to be writing when I was offered the job at the end of January as I had hoped that by now I would have met all of the children and some of the parents. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond all of our control, this is not possible at the moment. I hope that you are enjoying and being able to access the work that the teachers are putting on Seesaw as well as having the opportunity to spend lots of time at home with your families.

Fortunately, I have managed to meet most of the staff and I feel privileged to be working with such dedicated and hardworking teams at both schools who put the children at the heart of everything they do.

As the leader of the schools, my main job is to make sure your child is safe, happy and achieving well whilst they are at school. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reassure you that when we are allowed to reopen the schools, we will spend time ensuring that children have the help and support they may need to settle and adjust to being back in school.

To the children: I know your teachers are missing you lots and can't wait to see you all again. I know you probably have lots of questions about what is going on at the minute, some of which we can't answer unfortunately! You will have heard on the news that the Government have asked us to stay in lockdown for at least another three weeks. This is partly because the things you and your family are doing to keep safe are beginning to work but they are worried that if we go straight back to normal then things will get bad again and may even get worse. By staying at home, not going out to meet family and friends and not coming to school you are beginning to beat the virus, we just need to do it for a bit longer to make sure that we stay healthy. Make sure you keep talking to the adults that are looking after you if you are worried about anything and know that we're thinking about you all of the time. I'm really excited to meet each and every one of you as soon as it is safe for me to do so and setting myself the challenge of learning all of your names!

The office at Newton Regis is open every day so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us or send a message through Seesaw and we will do our best to help you.

Yours sincerely,
Sara Eley
Headteacher