 Ilsington C of E Primary School

*Ilsington, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9RE*

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31st May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I thought I would write to introduce myself as I will be joining the school as Academy Head in September and would very much like to say hello to you all. I am also contacting the staff and other members of the school community to make myself known and I will write directly to the children as well.

I’ve included a picture of myself just to give you some idea of who I am so that if you see me around over the next few months, before September, you might like to say hello or stop for a chat.

I am local to the area, although I have a northern accent having spent much of my childhood in the Midlands. I am married with a grownup family and recently moved from Ashburton to Newton Abbot happily downsizing from lawn to courtyard garden.

Following a career as a herdsperson I retrained in Devon as a teacher and I am now an experienced school leader. I have led schools across Devon for a number of years as head of teaching and learning and then more recently as a non-teaching head teacher.

About a year and a half ago I chose to return to fulltime class teaching as I felt the need to reconnect with my own teaching skills which I thoroughly enjoyed doing. However, this year I felt ready to return to headship and as you can imagine I was delighted to find the Academy Head post had become available at one of my very favourite schools.

I became familiar with Ilsington Primary in 2004 as a (very mature) teaching student and as a newly qualified teacher and have kept in contact with the school over the intervening years. I have carried my positive, happy experiences of the time I spent at Ilsington with me as I have led other small Christian schools and have tried to recreate that same sense of warmth and fun around me.

I am delighted to have the opportunity as the new Academy Head to become part of this lovely learning community and to work together with the staff at the school. I am confident that no matter what changes are ahead of us due to the current pandemic and however schools might look in September, that Ilsington will continue to be a safe, happy, welcoming place where learning is fun.

From September you will find me on the school gates at the end of every day and teaching across the school too and I look forward to getting to know you and your children in the new school term.

Until then I hope that you all keep well and are able to enjoy the fantastic weather and the gorgeous countryside around us and that you will be able to see those you are missing again soon.

Kind regards,

Sam McCarthy

(Mrs Samantha McCarthy-Patmore)