

Monday 17th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for Morningside Primary School. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to develop this fantastic school onto the next stage of its journey. I am a parent of two children and as a parent my goal has always been to ensure my children are happy in life and achieve their potential. This is the philosophy I bring to my role as Headteacher. My goal is to ensure all children who attend Morningside are happy, safe and provided with all the necessary opportunities to be the best they can be both socially and academically.

From my visits to the school and encounters with staff, some parents and children to date, it is clear that there is a real sense of community at Morningside, a special identity and a culture of aspiration. As a teacher, leader and parent, I believe all children should have access to excellent education so I am determined that the school builds on its legacy and continues to flourish and hold a position at the heart of our community.

I have worked in education for 25 years in a number of different school settings. I have been Headteacher at St John & St James for the last 6 years. I feel this gives me a great knowledge of what is needed to take Morningside forward. At Morningside we have a hugely committed and talented staff team, and of course wonderful children, which is why I am so excited for the future.

I strongly believe in providing our children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve our children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience.

By working together, we can ensure that your children exhibit the Morningside vision of being 'ready', 'respectful' and 'safe' so that they enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

As the key educator in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about our school. I will be sending out a parent's questionnaire over the coming weeks and would appreciate your honest feedback to help us build our vision for the future. Please do come up and introduce yourselves outside school – I will be at the front gate before and after school each day. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Jo Smith
Headteacher

