31st August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to finally be writing to you to introduce myself to the Sidlesham community.

I am due to start with you as Interim Headteacher on the 1st September and very much look forward to getting to know you all, as well as helping to steady and guide the ship that is Sidlesham Primary, prior to the appointment of a substantive head in due course.

I find it most upsetting how slowly the wheels of bureaucracy turn, which means that although I was asked to take on this role right at the end of the summer term, nothing has been allowed to be officially communicated until now. This upset comes out of a desire to be as transparent and communicative as possible with parents as the most effective education for our children happens when school and home really do work together as a team.

I shall be meeting with the staff team for Inset training tomorrow, during which time we shall begin work on our school development plan as well as undertaking safeguarding training and final preparations for the children’s arrival on Monday. I am most grateful to Mr Blake-Lobb and Miss Harwood for their time meeting with me during the break and their planned leadership of activities for Inset day too.

Speaking of gratefulness, it was useful to meet with Mrs Brooks and Mrs Lawson during August and wonderful to bump into many staff while I was visiting during the holidays – one gets a sense of the real family feel to the school as so many were generously giving of their own time to get classrooms straight and in some cases redecorated for the new academic year following the overhaul of the school heating system. Mr Pearce was also very busy improving the premises – including installing a great new trim trail for the children to enjoy.

Mr Blake-Lobb has also kindly agreed to produce a very short video introducing Miss Harwood and I to you following our Inset day.

So, with the start of term looming large, I shall look forward to starting to meet you at the entrance on Monday morning. I shall usually be working Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with Mr Blake-Lobb deputising the rest of the week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite any interested parents along to meet me, in person, for a cuppa briefly after drop-off on Wednesday 13th September, a school Governor or two also hope to be there as well as Miss Harwood (our new SENCo and one of our Tiger Class teachers). This is purely to say “hello” – I have no planned big speeches!

Alternatively, I shall also be present at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 21st September, my wife even promises to make some ginger biscuits for it (though probably not enough for the whole school family).

Wishing you a lovely final weekend of the summer holiday.

Kind regards

Alex Bird