



# Horsley

Church of England  
Primary School

Friday, 3rd April 2020

Dear Horsley families,

I am writing to introduce myself to you as the new headteacher of Horsley. I would like to thank Paul Leeson for his support especially during these unprecedented times and for his thorough handover. We will ensure that Paul has the Horsley send-off that is fitting for the spirit, energy, commitment and time that he has given during his years as headteacher here. We will also make sure that Year 6 have their Horsley farewell, as they move onto Year 7. At this point in time we don't know when school will be up and running as normal but staff will do all they can to support families with any aspect of home learning. Should you have any queries then please email the school office and a member of staff will contact you. My current email address is: [headteacher@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@mapperleycont.derbyshire.sch.uk) should you wish to get in touch with me.

As you may be aware, I am also headteacher of Mapperley CE Primary School, near Ilkeston. I have been Headteacher there since September 2010. Previously I worked in Hampshire, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. My teaching career began in Hampshire where I taught in a Church of England Primary School before moving to Nottingham in 2000. Mapperley is very similar to Horsley in many respects, being a small village church school very much at the heart of the community. We were judged to be Outstanding by SIAMS in 2016 and Good by Ofsted in 2017. I very much hope that the two schools will establish close links and enjoy working together. I believe very firmly that children need to feel safe, happy and secure at school and that schools and families should work closely together to make sure this happens. When school reopens fully, I hope to get to chat to more of you at the gate and to get to know you – please forgive me if I forget names, but I'll remember faces and stories! If you need to speak to me at any time, please let the office know and they'll set up an appointment for you. My times are not yet set for when I'm on site due to the commitments at both schools, but I will try to put expected times in the newsletter in order to keep you updated.

My first priority will be to get to know the children and their families, understanding their individual needs, supporting the staff to deliver an engaging and innovative curriculum, and provide an exceptional and supportive learning environment, enabling each child to achieve their best.

I am delighted to be joining the Horsley community and I look forward to working with all of you, and continue to develop this lovely school as it continues to grow from strength to strength and provide a safe, happy and secure learning environment for our children.

Please look after yourselves and if there is anything that school can do to support, then get in touch.

Stay safe everyone,

Richard Cripps



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Dear all,

I am writing a brief farewell for the time being. I would like to thank Richard for his help and support of both schools over the past fortnight, in what has been truly exceptional and difficult circumstances. I'm sure that one of the lasting legacies will be the coming together of our two school communities. I would like to thank all of our staff members for their ongoing commitment to our children. It leaves me with a feeling of confidence that Horsley and Mapperley schools will continue to grow and thrive under Richard's leadership.

As I reflect upon a career of over thirty years, with in excess of sixteen of those being Headteacher at Horsley I would like to thank you all, parents and families past and present for your outstanding contributions to our community, your children for the laughter and the tears, every member of the Governing Body for your leadership and guidance, every member of staff for your commitment and support and the church community for the celebrations and feeding of the spirit.

Lastly, as I hand over to Richard, I wish you all the best at these difficult times and look forward to seeing you when life draws us together again. And for those of you who enjoy such things, a little burst of poetry:

*The Road goes ever on and on,  
Down from the door where it began.  
Now far ahead the Road has gone,  
And I must follow, if I can,  
Pursuing it with eager feet,  
Until it joins some larger way  
Where many paths and errands meet.  
And whither then? I cannot say*

*J.R.R. Tolkien*

Paul Leeson  
Headteacher



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