



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St James' Church of England Primary School. All the staff, governors, parents and pupils have made me feel very welcome and I feel extremely honoured and privileged to be joining your school community.

Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to visit the school on several occasions and to meet with Mr Jones, pupils and staff. I would like to thank Mr Jones for his support in ensuring the thorough transition to a new Headteacher was as smooth as possible.

This is a child centred school and the staff are caring and compassionate individuals with a genuine desire to develop and provide the best opportunities for the pupils. Every pupil has the ability to excel and it is our privilege to help them achieve this. Our pupils have the right to best quality education in all areas and we will continue to strive to provide the opportunities to allow your children to develop into independent learners. The world is changing and the jobs market becoming more diverse and competitive and we have a duty to prepare our next generation for jobs that may not yet exist.

I am married with two children of primary school age and enjoy caving, cycling, climbing, walking our dogs and cooking. I have always lived in the High Peak and feel lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world. Prior to becoming a teacher, I worked as a retail manager for the Cooperative and worked all over the North West of England. I have worked in a variety of large primary schools and specialist schools. I share the pupil's passion for learning and attend university myself. I chose Primary Education because I am passionate about giving all pupils the skills, knowledge and passion for learning to enable them to make their own choices and lead a happy and successful life.

There is a strong sense of community and developing links with the local area and parents is an area I feel very strongly about. I am very much looking forward to working with you all over the coming year. I will try to be on the playground both before and after school and please feel free to come and talk to me and if you would like to talk privately, we can arrange a meeting. Please contact the school if you have any questions or worries.

Kindest regards

Craig Woodward