



Fountains C of E Primary School

Friday 11th January

Welcome back

A warm welcome back to school. I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.



I am thrilled to be joining the Federation of Grewelthorpe and Fountains C of E Primary School. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and working with you as we start on a new journey at Fountains C of E Primary School.

I qualified as a teacher with a BA(Hons) in Theology in 1997 from the College of Ripon and York St. John. I have worked for three different local authorities; taught in every year group from Reception to Year 6; and have co-ordinated a range of core and foundation subjects. I was an Assistant Head at Ripon Cathedral Primary School for three years and then took up my first Headship at Scotton Lingerfield Primary School in 2015.

I believe that learning is a journey filled with opportunities to gain new skills and knowledge. Children should have experiences which engage and motivate them. I want the children in my schools to embrace challenges as opportunities to develop and improve, embedding a growth mindset where effort, resilience and perseverance are rewarded. I want your children to develop positive learning attitudes built on self-belief, a desire to succeed and the expectation to be the best that they can be.

Teaching and Learning

Over the next half term, I am looking forward to observing the learning opportunities on offer to your children. On my walk around school this week, I have been asking the children about what they are looking forward to this term.

In Class 1, I met a very important addition to the class. He arrived in a parcel earlier this week. His name is Percy and he is a Penguin. Their topic is 'Hot and Cold'. The children have started by reading the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers.

In Class 2, the children are also learning about hot and cold climates. They are also planning on learning about Canada as a contrasting locality.

In Class 3, their topic is 'Volcanoes and Mountains'. They will be doing lots of fact finding. The children are really excited and have been making suggestions themselves about what they would like to learn. For example, tracing maps.

In Class 4, their topic is 'Adventurous Expeditions.' The children will be developing their knowledge of mountains and using a range of geographical skills. They are also expecting to have a visit from Swaledale Mountain Rescue.

Spring Term

This term I will be spending my time across the federation to learn about both schools. To do this, I will be observing teaching and learning, I will be talking to staff, Governors and children. I will also be interested in your feedback and input and will plan Parent Forums where you can come in to share your experiences and opinions. My aim will be to share a new vision for the future of the federation. This inevitably will bring about changes over time but I believe that change is necessary and that we always need to strive to improve.