



Hanley St Luke's C of E (Aided) Primary

5th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to finally take up post as Head Teacher here at Hanley St Luke's and wanted to introduce myself to you properly. It was lovely to greet many of you and your children this morning at the school gates and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months. It was also a joy to welcome the whole school back to school this morning as we met together for the visiting pantomime, which I am sure the children thoroughly enjoyed - it certainly sounded like it! Tomorrow I look forward to leading our first whole school worship together too where we'll be thinking about 'firsts' we experienced during 2016 and what we might be hoping to do for the first time in 2017 too.

Obviously a major first for me was being interviewed for the post of Head Teacher back on 4th July. Since then, I have spent several transition days working alongside Mr Barlow, the staff and governors to prepare for the handover which has been a wonderfully supportive process and really helped me to get a flavour for the school's ethos and traditions but also its aims and ambitions for the future too. Schools are under immense pressure to constantly improve and with an unprecedented number of changes over the last couple of years to curriculum, assessment, local authority structures and new financial pressures, it really is an exciting, if demanding time to be leading a school forward.

You may already know that I have been Head Teacher at another Church Aided Primary School - St Thomas in Kidsgrove, for the last 9 years, where I was able to work with the whole school community to achieve very successful results. I left this school full of love for its whole community and very proud of the successes we had achieved together. However, I also felt that the time was right to use my wide experiences to lead a new school forward. Hanley St Luke's immediately appealed to me because it so clearly had its Christian values at its core, but equally, because it serves such a diverse and wonderfully vibrant community with beautiful children eager and excited to learn. The children have been so welcoming to me today and I am eager to get to know them as individuals but with over 470 that may take a little while yet! I am privileged indeed to be asked to lead this school on the next step of its journey and having worked closely with many community partners, head teachers from both the primary and secondary phases and spent some time as an Executive Head supporting a local school in challenging circumstances, you can be assured that I will use all of these experiences for the benefit of your children's education. I will seek to work with you and the whole school community as we strive to create a beacon of excellence in the heart of Hanley where children live out the school's motto of 'Learning, Laughing and Loving at Family St Luke's', inspired to reach academic excellence and fully develop their own God given talents.

Finally then, may I wish you all a Happy New Year and every blessing for 2017 for you and your families.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Williamson
Headteacher