



*Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high –
celebrating difference – enriching community*

24th October 2025

Dear Children, Parents, Carers, Governors, Families and Friends of Haytor View Community Primary and Nursery School,

I am delighted to be writing this letter to you as I look forward to starting my Headship here at the fantastic school that is Haytor View. I feel very lucky to have been appointed and lead the school to the next phase in its journey of continual improvement.

As we break up for half term, I wanted to extend **my thanks** to you all who have made the time to make me feel welcomed and part of the community already during my visits to the school and on the courtyard. The **children** here especially have made a positive impression with their enthusiasm, warmth and energy each time I have visited.

The **staff** here have really struck me with their commitment to caring deeply about each and every child. I am ambitious for where we can go to the next level with such a dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff team here at Haytor.

I know that **change** can be a time of uncertainty and worry; I would like to reassure you that working together you and I, in whatever role you serve within this community, will lead the school through the tough times and the highs, by listening, responding, consulting and making decisions with the **children here at the heart of everything**.

Miss Sarah Butler has done a brilliant job **stabilising the school** through recent staffing changes, and I would like to thank her for all that she has done, and continues to do, as we embark on the next chapter of the school's life as a **united team**. As ever, with any worries, concerns, questions or queries, please continue to talk to your child's class teacher, the school's SENDCo or Learning Partners.

My priority will be to **connect with** as many members of the school community as possible, getting to know the children here as individuals and finding out what makes them tick. **Relationships are at the heart** of my philosophy as an educator; I strongly believe that building meaningful connections, sincerely, is the biggest investment a school leader can make. We can then build on this foundation as the children grow here and we shape their experiences at school that prepare them for a **successful and bright future**.

Change does take time so I would ask for your **support, understanding, patience and feedback**, in the coming months and years. Please do provide your support and challenge for the school, engage in the many ways you can connect with us (join our Governing Body, our fundraising team, volunteer or just catch me on the courtyard at the start and end of the day; Miss Butler and I will be there in rain or shine!).

There may be changes on the horizon that excite or worry you, please be assured my door is always open and **my role here is to serve the community** with my heart, soul and mind.

I am an **experienced school leader** having previously been a Headteacher at one school in the South West serving a similar community, as well as Interim Headteacher at two other schools. I made the decision to bring my most recent role for the past five years as a School Improvement Leader at another Trust to an end, as I feel passionately about being able to make a direct difference to an individual school community as a Headteacher. That said, I continue to **learn and grow as a leader** (indeed, learning never stops!), and promise to bring my skills and experience with me as your Headteacher, whilst keeping an open mind to the 'Haytor View way' and what is already working well here.

When I am not at school, I can be found pitch-side with my son who plays football locally, or at any of the various dance, swim and gym venues around Newton Abbot with my two daughters. I strongly believe this area is a wonderful area to live and raise children, having made that decision to move here and do the same as you, and I eagerly look forward to the role I can play in **helping shape the young learners** here at Haytor View, with your support.

With kind regards,



Mrs Claire Hepher
Headteacher
Haytor View Community Primary and Nursery School

