



Headlands Community Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL, SMHL

Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing my first letter to you as the new Headteacher of Headlands Primary School. Since my appointment, I have had the opportunity to spend time in school, meeting pupils and staff; I have been made to feel extremely welcome. I feel genuinely privileged to be joining the Headlands community and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming weeks and months.

As a father of two, I am very aware of the trust that parents and carers place in a school and of the responsibility that my staff and I must ensure that every child receives the highest possible standard of education, care and support. Above all, I want our children to be happy coming to school, to feel safe, known and valued, and to be both supported and challenged to achieve their full potential.

One of the things that has been clear to me during my visits is that I am joining a school with many existing strengths. My intention is very much to build upon these, working alongside pupils, staff, governors and families to ensure that Headlands continues to develop and improve. Initially, an important part of my role will be to listen, learn and understand what makes Headlands special, while also identifying where, together, we can make things even better.

Underpinning this will be high aspirations and expectations for every child. I believe strongly that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand and that children learn most successfully when they are happy, engaged and feel that they belong. We will therefore maintain high expectations for teaching, learning, attendance and behaviour, while recognising that every child is an individual and that the support they need to succeed will not always look the same.

We will continue to provide children with a broad, ambitious and engaging education that enables them to develop academically, creatively, personally, physically, morally and spiritually. Alongside strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, I want our children to have opportunities to discover their interests and talents, develop confidence and independence, and create positive memories of their time at Headlands.

During my visits to Headlands, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mrs. Ellis as part of the transition arrangements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her

support and for everything she has done to ensure that the transition has been as smooth as possible.

As I commence this role, building strong relationships will be one of my immediate priorities. I want to get to know the children, staff and families properly and to understand your experiences of Headlands. I will make every effort to be visible and approachable around school, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day, so please do come over and introduce yourself when you see me.

I know from experience how important the partnership between school and home is in ensuring that children have a positive and rewarding experience of education. Parents and carers know their children better than anyone, and I want you to feel that your views are listened to and valued. Equally, I hope that we can rely upon your support for the high expectations we have for all our children. Open, honest and respectful communication between home and school will be central to the way I intend to work.

Over the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for me to meet parents and carers, learning more about what you value, what you feel works particularly well and where you believe we could improve further. In the meantime, I am more than happy to be contacted directly via email at a.buttery@headlands.york.sch.uk.

As you are aware, I will continue in my role as Headteacher of Elvington Church of England Primary School. As a result, I will share my time between Headlands and Elvington, working on a four-day/one-day split.

I will therefore not normally be at Headlands on Fridays. Friday Celebration Assemblies will be led by different members of the teaching team and will begin at 2:40pm.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the support and commitment you already give to Headlands, its staff and, most importantly, its children. Taking on the headship of a school is both a privilege and a considerable responsibility, and it is one that I take extremely seriously. I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to working with you to build upon Headlands' existing strengths, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed and flourish.

I look forward to meeting you all and to a happy and successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Buttery', with a stylized, looped flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Andrew Buttery