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Dear Parents

My name is Chris Rickard and, as from September I am your new Head Teacher. I am writing to you all to introduce myself and share some of my ideas for our school. Normally at this stage, I would invite you to school to introduce myself to you in person. Sadly however, in light of the current pandemic this will have to wait for a little while longer. Instead, I am looking at ways in which we can meet virtually over the next few days so we can all feel familiar when we finally meet in September.

I am sure some of you are nervous about a change of staff and more so in these unusual times. I can assure you that Mrs Rundle and I have incredibly similar goals and want nothing more than to continue to keep Holbeton Primary School a happy, family oriented school that will build on its recent successes. My vision for the school is to ensure the needs of all the children are met in all areas of school life and that everyone is given a breadth of experience and opportunity that sets them up for later life. Holistic, fun-filled primary education is what we will be striving towards. At Holbeton, we have the huge advantage of being set in such enviable grounds, with long-standing experienced and dedicated staff. Though there are only a few of us, what we lose in quantity we make up in quality! This will not change under my leadership.

I hope you will soon find me to be an enthusiastic head teacher. I have a sympathetic ear, and I hope to bring energy and dedication to Holbeton. As luck would have it, I have had the privilege of working with some of the staff at Holbeton during my career, and I am confident we will make a great team of staff for supporting you and your children in the coming years. I have met some of you and it may help to know a little about me for those of you that I have not yet met.

I have lived in Devon for most of my life. I grew up in Ivybridge, was educated at Ivybridge Community College and continued my studies at Bristol, where I qualified at university. From here, I taught in a number of schools across the country before returning to Devon as part of the senior leadership team at Bickleigh Down Primary. From here I have continued my experience in senior leadership roles at Stowford Primary and Sherford Vale. I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work at Holbeton Primary School which is situated in one of the most idyllic regions of our country and close to my home.

I have been married to my wife Zoe for over 10 years. We have two children, Oliver (9) and Imogen (7) who attend school locally. We are keen amateur small-holders and enjoy keeping ponies, poultry and sheep. I am a passionate sportsman, having competed in many sports



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from athletics to rowing and I now find myself competing regularly in triathlons having finished my first Ironman two years ago. I love the outdoors and regularly visit Mothecombe Beach for kayaking and open water swimming.

I look forward to meeting you all in September. This year is going to be an unusual year for most of us, having weathered the pandemic and home schooling! We are all in this together and I know the coming year will be a positive one. My door is always open; feel free to contact me any time for an appointment.

Yours sincerely



Mr C. Rickard
Head of School



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