

## Interview with Mrs Barnes

**What is it like being in charge of the whole school?**

We are a big infant school with about 50 members of staff and up to 330 pupils and making sure that everyone is happy is quite a responsibility. I am lucky that I have a great team of Governors who help me and a lovely Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs Parkinson, so I don't do it all on my own. All the staff at John Hampden work together very well which helps a lot.

**How did you become a head teacher?**

I spent a long time being a classroom teacher, teaching all the different year groups and making sure I got as much experience as possible about all the different things that go on in a school. Then I had to gain a special qualification (NPQH) because you couldn't be a head teacher without that. Next, when the job I wanted became available I had to apply for it. I had to have an interview where they ask you to do lots of tasks, activities and talking. Finally I got the job!

**What do you do in your office all day?**

I try very hard not to be in my office all day because I like to see what is going on in the school but, when I am in my office, I have a number of things to do. I spend a lot of time planning and organising things. I gather information about how well the school is doing and see if there are ways that we can improve. I have meetings or talk to people on the telephone. I use the computer for my work - looking at emails or writing things like

the newsletter. I also see children who come to show me their excellent work - that's the best bit!

**What did you want to be when you were a little girl?**

I remember wanting to be a teacher from a very young age. I had a lovely teacher when I was about six years old and I remember wanting to be like her.

**How does it feel when you have to talk in front of so many people at assembly?**

Talking in front of people is something that you have to do quite a lot when you are a Head Teacher and you do get used to it. Having a good plan of what you are going to talk about helps! Assemblies at John Hampden are fun because the children do listen and join in beautifully!

**How do you organise everything?**

I do like to be organised and having a very high quality plan of what you want to achieve is a good way to organise yourself and other people. I make a list of jobs to do each week and I try to start with the most important ones so that everything is done on time.

**What is the best bit of being the head teacher of John Hampden?**

The best bit is definitely leading a school with a strong team of staff and where everyone always tries their best. Our pupils are well behaved and eager to learn and their parents are very supportive of the school. It feels like a calm, happy place to work and to learn and I think that is very important.

**Are you proud to be the head teacher of our school?**

*Very, very proud!*

**Are you always busy?**

*The honest answer is yes, but I am never too busy to see anybody who needs me. There is always something to do but it is important to make sure you organise your time to do the most important things first.*

**How do you feel when someone does something wrong?**

*I feel really disappointed that something happened which made them forget the Golden Rules.*

**How do you feel when children come to show you their work?**

*I feel really proud of their achievements and I think it is very important that the children who come, to feel very special and to know how pleased we are with them.*

**Is it hard being a head teacher?**

*I think this is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world but it is also a very challenging job at times. I really enjoy what I do and I really want to do it well so I think that makes it easier!*