



# Ridgewell C of E VA Primary School

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6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome everybody to the Autumn Term here at Ridgewell School. I am delighted to be joining you this term and I am looking forward to getting to know everybody and working with you, the staff and especially with your children. I have been made to feel very welcome and it is a pleasure to see so many happy, smiling faces. I am already starting to feel "at home" here, so thank you to everybody concerned.

As you will already know I will be splitting my time between Ridgewell and Belchamp School, where I am the current Headteacher. I will normally be at Ridgewell on Mondays and at Belchamp on Wednesdays as a regular pattern. The other days will be flexible initially depending on the needs of the two schools. The staff will be aware of my whereabouts on a weekly basis and I am contactable by both schools at any time. If you have a question or concern regarding your child please speak with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you require further clarification you can make an appointment with Mrs Lowe, Miss Lewis or myself by contacting Mrs Bliss in the office. I will also aim to be in the playground most mornings when I am at Ridgewell if you would like a quick chat.

Both schools have excellent, experienced members of staff who will be able to manage the day to day running of the school in my absence. Here at Ridgewell you are very fortunate to have Mrs Lowe and Miss Lewis who are sharing the Head of School role. Miss Lewis will continue to teach her class the majority of the time, and especially for the core subjects. Existing experienced staff will be able to cover for her when required but Miss Lewis will be doing all the planning for her class. Mrs Lowe will also continue in her current role as SENCo for the school.

I am attaching to this letter a list of dates that have already been set for this academic year. You will receive further information regarding events nearer the time. The staff will be deciding on clubs next week and they will start during the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> September. There are a couple of new events that are on the date list which have been recently introduced. We are organising three welly walks around the village, one in each term. These will be whole school events and are part of the Healthy Schools/ Active Outdoor Learning initiatives. The school is hoping to strengthen its community links and we hope that members of the local community will be able to join us on the walks too. A link has already been established between the local Gardening Society and the school. Cultural days have also been introduced starting this term with an African theme (more details to follow).

Finally, we would like to give a warm welcome to the new children and their families who are joining the school this term. We hope you will soon settle in and enjoy your time at Ridgewell School. Just so that you are aware, one of the children joining us has a nut allergy. Once we know the severity of the allergy we will, of course, let you know whether a complete ban on nuts in school will be necessary as part of our commitment to ensure all children are safe within the school environment.

Linda Buchanan  
Executive Headteacher