



18 October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you well.

I have now been at Lobley Hill for three weeks and during that time I have learned so much about your wonderful school. I have attended Champions' Assemblies on a Monday where we celebrate children across the school who have demonstrated their CARE ethos in their work and interactions, children achieving Dojos in class as well as other team and individual events. I have seen how Breakfast Club and lunchtimes operate and how the children interact with each other on the yard at play and lunch times. I have also had the pleasure of leading the whole-school Singing Assembly with my guitar which has been such a positive and joyous way to end our week.

I have managed to speak to several parents and carers on the yard and may I thank you all again for your warm welcome. Communication, I believe, is extremely important for any organisation and I am beginning to make a few changes to how we communicate both in school and with parents and carers. It is important for you to know that we value your constructive opinions and ideas; it is your school, after all. I want all parents and carers to feel that they can approach a member of staff with a query or issue, or even an idea. If we can't solve it or be able to give you our full attention at that time, we will gladly make arrangements to contact you later. As you can imagine, the start and end of the day is a particularly busy time for teachers and support staff and our priority at those times is to welcome and settle our children and not lose any learning time. Similarly, Mrs Wood-Williams, Mr Beattie or I are very happy to meet with you if we can help; all three of us are usually on the yard at the beginning or end of the day.

I have been made aware that some parents and carers may not have received my last letter or indeed any recent communication from the school office. If you know of someone who isn't receiving our regular communications, please can you ask that they contact the school office so that we can check their details and our system – we don't want anyone to miss out.

As well as the activities listed above, I have also looked in more depth at teaching and learning across the school and our environment for learning. There are huge positives here and wonderful examples of Writing, Mathematics and Foundation subjects happening all over school. I must remark on the behaviour and attitudes of the children as well; this is some of the best I have seen during my career and is a credit to you, the children and the staff at Lobley Hill.

During my time here at Lobley Hill I promise I will do my very best for your children and community and we are all working together as a school to "be the best that we can be". I feel very lucky to be here.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

CR Sutherland

Mr C Sutherland
Acting Headteacher