



HAWTHORNDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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JACKIE MELLON, Head teacher

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31 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am absolutely delighted to be writing my first letter to you all as permanent Head Teacher of Hawthornden Primary and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your kind words of support and encouragement on my appointment. It means so much. I am so looking forward to continuing the role as Head teacher and to be supporting our pupils and school community on our journey to excellence.

Over the past few years at Hawthornden, I have been very fortunate to have worked as part of a fantastic Senior Leadership Team. Depute Head Teachers, Laura Birrell and Ruth Johnson have played a vital part in supporting me as Acting Head Teacher over the past few months and for that, I am extremely grateful and am so happy that they will continue to be part of my management team. Everyone who works in the school plays an important part and I have felt unwavering support from all the staff, parents and partners. I am looking forward to our new adventure together.

I want Hawthornden to be a place that all pupils, parents and staff are proud to be associated with. I know that together we can make this a reality. I am passionate about providing our pupils with a world class education - all of them - regardless of any barriers they face. I will never settle for anything less because your children deserve the absolute best and I will do everything in my power to deliver that. I want to help create a school, working closely with our amazing staff team, that your children are desperate to attend - a place they feel safe and happy, excited and enthralled! A school they can proudly call their own.

The school is not without its challenges, but that is what makes it unique and that will keep me on my toes and stimulated in the role of HT. The centre of every school is the children and we have great kids here at Hawthornden. They make every day different and bring the place alive. I am looking forward to watch the children grow and progress academically, socially and emotionally.

I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is achieved. We have a hugely committed team and wonderful children, which of course, is a great place for any Head Teacher to start!

I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school.

I understand what our school needs to do to further improve and I firmly believe, with the help and support of our pupils, parents, staff and partners, we can do it. I hope that I can count on your support as we move forward and would ask that if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sadly, COVID is restricting interaction within the school community at the moment, but I do hope that one day (hopefully!), I will get the opportunity to meet those of you who I may not have met yet!

Kind Regards,  
Jackie Mellon  
Head Teacher