

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

**A warm welcome back from Mr Bell and all of the staff at Werneth Primary School**

Hello Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and have enjoyed a healthy and happy summer break.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

My name is Jonathan Bell and I am the new Principal at Werneth Primary School.



Firstly, thank you for your efforts in getting our children ready to return to school today. As a parent, I understand that this may have caused some anxiety and this is understandable. I would also like to thank you for your efforts to maintain home learning during lockdown. This wasn't easy for any parent/carer- including me- and the staff have been really looking forward to getting our children back into school.

I have joined the Werneth Primary School and Pinnacle Learning Trust team from Westwood Academy in Oldham, where I have spent the last five and a half years as a Principal and Executive Principal. During my time at Westwood Academy, I worked alongside the staff to improve educational outcomes for children and support and develop staff to be excellent practitioners. It was one of my proudest achievements to take Westwood Academy from being Ofsted rated 'Inadequate' to being rated as 'Good' with 'Outstanding outcomes' and 'Outstanding personal development, behaviour and welfare'. Outcomes for Westwood Academy pupils were in the top 2% of pupils nationally, an achievement that was built on excellent teaching and positive relationships between staff, children and families.

I have been working with Werneth Primary School staff since October, 2018 as a School to School Support lead, commissioned to help the school by Oldham Opportunity Area. This means that I have a working knowledge of the school, it's history, our staff and the challenges facing our school. There are many things that I have worked with staff to develop since 2018 that will stay the same (including our approach to reading, writing and maths), but there will be some things that change.

During lockdown, I worked with Mr Whittaker and Miss Tomlinson (as Curriculum Lead) to develop a new curriculum that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and supports our children to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in Humanities. Staff received training on this at the INSET meeting yesterday and are looking forward to sharing this with our children, starting next week.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it might take me a lot longer to learn children's names and to recognise parents and carers around school! However, please feel free to approach me to ask any questions about the Covid-19 measures, our new curriculum and your child's progress. If you wish to speak to members of staff, please ring the office and make an appointment or arrange a time for staff to phone you back.

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, we are keen to maintain the excellent relationship between parents and school, so we will try our best to communicate with you. We are in the process of improving our website, we have made some changes to our weekly newsletter (which will be sent via email) and we desperately need all parents and carers to provide us with the most up to date contact details, in case of an emergency and to pass on any important information. This will be especially vital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am excited by the challenges that lay ahead and know that we have a staff team, supported by The Pinnacle Learning Trust, who are committed to making sure that our children receive the best education possible. We will all need your support with making sure that children read regularly at home and in making sure that children attend school every day. The children have already missed so much.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bell