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10th July 2020

Dear Maple Class (2020-21),

A few weeks ago you discovered that I will be teaching you in Maple Class next year. I thought I would write to you to tell you a little more about me and what we will be doing in Year 4 as I will not get to see you all before the summer break.

As you know already, my name is Mr Gray and next year will be my third year in Newlands Primary School. Prior to joining you all in Newlands, I worked in Dogmersfield Primary School near Fleet for six years having been a full-time music teacher for the Hampshire Music Service for three years before that. During my teaching career, I have taught in over forty primary schools and I have taught every year group from reception up to year 13 at college. Juniors (year 3-6) is definitely my favourite age to teach!

What some of you will not know is that before I became a teacher I was a professional musician in the British Army. During my service, I toured the world, met most of the Royal Family and performed at many world-famous events like the Edinburgh Tattoo and The Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Music is obviously a huge part of my life and I still perform now, mainly for theatre shows. Before I joined Dogmersfield, I used to play for one of the best brass bands in England – we were in the top ten of the world rankings. I really miss playing for them and competing all over the country but I just cannot fit in the rehearsals that they require as a full-time teacher.

I suspect you have guessed already, but I really enjoy teaching music and I have lots of exciting things planned for you to enjoy already. In addition to music, I love teaching maths and grammar! If you have any spare time during the summer break, please work on your times tables because you will need to know all of them (up to 12x12) by the end of year 4 so having a head start will really help. In September, our topic will be the Vikings and we will build on what you learnt with Mr Redhead about the Stone Age and the Iron Age. I love the Vikings because we will get to learn so much and do some great activities like making helmets!

My goals for next year are to get you all settled back into school as quickly as I can and to get you used to working at 'Mr Gray speed' – we will cover a LOT each day so you will need lots of energy and plenty of sleep each night. I would like you all to 'love learning' and to relish the challenges I will set you – we are going to be an amazing team and we will achieve so much together!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and are able to get out and about, see your friends and family and have a lot of fun and amazing adventures safely. Stay safe, work on your times tables and be ready to hit the ground running in September – we are going to have a brilliant year together.

With best wishes to you all,

Mr Gray