



Dungells Lane, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6EY
Telephone: 01252 871188 Facsimile: 01252876581
www.newlandsprimary.net
E-mail: enquiries@newlands.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr William Neighbour

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Dear Beech class to be,

A few weeks ago, you found out that myself and Mrs Richardson will be teaching you in Beech class next year. I am writing this letter to introduce myself a little bit more to you. You may recognise my face as I have been in school throughout your Newlands journey so far. However, I am going to share a bit more information about me and what you can expect from your Year 5 experience with myself and Mrs Richardson.

I have been a teacher at Newlands for the past 9 years. I started in September 2011, as a newly qualified teacher (NQT). I started my teaching career in Year 3, where I spent many happy years. My first class that I taught at Newlands will be going into Year 11 at secondary school this September - that does make me feel very old! I have in fact taught a few of your siblings. I stayed in Year 3 for three years and then I moved up to year 6 where I stayed for another three years. I was lucky enough to teach all my Year 3 children again in year 6 and it was lovely to see how much they had grown in confidence, understanding and maturity in those three years. As you know, my last year has been spent in Year 5 - I have thoroughly enjoyed this year group and learning a new curriculum.

I enjoy teaching all subjects, however, my favourites to teach are English, PE and Art. I have been very fortunate to have delivered a rich, innovative curriculum in many year groups. Before becoming a teacher, I completed a Sport and Exercise Science degree at Chichester University. I can regularly be found taking hiit, circuit and toning exercise classes and I am keen to bring some of this enthusiasm and energy to your PE lessons.

I have been married to my husband, Mr Harris, who is a self-employed carpenter for 4 years and we live in Church Crookham, Fleet along with our little boy Theo, who will be two in a few months. My husband is very practical and loves building things for our little boy. Over lockdown, Theo now has a fort to play in (with dinosaurs on it), a mud kitchen and a sand and water table combo. We currently have no pets, although Theo loves his animal toys and actually made animal noises before he said any words. Therefore, I can imagine that in the future we will be having a furry friend of some sort. We have two nieces (Darcy and Poppy) who share the same birthday. Theo is close to his cousins as they are only two months apart and he goes to nursery with Darcy (my brother's little girl).

Outside of school, I love spending time with my family and friends - they are a very important part of my life. As a family we can be regularly found having meals together and going on days out. I enjoy reading and am looking forward to sharing the class texts with you this year. I really enjoy the theatre and love a good musical. I am very passionate about cooking and try to cook as many different cuisines as I can - I am often experimenting! On my days off I spend time with Theo and he is now at the age where we do attempt some

baking - another area which I love! He loves rolling the rolling pin and using the cookies cutters. He loves being outdoors so we are more than likely to be found in the garden or out on a walk.

I am delighted to be working with Mrs Richardson this year. Although we have taught at the same school for a few years, we have never worked in the same key stage. We are firm friends so we will make a good team - our children often have play dates together.

September will come round quickly, so if you have any spare time over the holidays please read (lots) and continue learning your tables. Tables really do underpin many aspects of maths and will stand you in a good position when learning recommences in a few months. We have many wonderful topics to share with you and we start by learning about earth and space - this will link together our English, Science and Geography. We will have lots to cover, so will be working hard every day, all day. Please come back full of energy, fully revived and with a positive can do attitude!

I am thoroughly looking forward to another year in year 5 and to sharing with you all the new experiences and opportunities that will occur next year. I hope you have a lovely restful summer break and I will see you in September.

Best wishes to you all,

Mrs Harris

