



Stewart Brown
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter to you as the new Headteacher of Athelstane Primary School. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen for this role and to be given the opportunity to work with a staff team, parent body, local community and children who I have heard such wonderful things about.

I come to Athelstaneford from my previous role of Education Support Officer for Digital Learning across the South East (East Lothian, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and Fife). Prior to that I worked in the Scottish Borders, most recently as a Depute Headteacher across two schools. In my experience there's something special about being part of a "small school" and I've already felt that in Athelstaneford during my short visits.

As you can imagine, whilst I'm writing this letter from my home office, this is not how I imagined starting my new post at Athelstaneford. We find ourselves in totally new territory and dealing with unforeseen challenges. I have been so impressed by our staff who have thrown themselves into the challenge to try and ensure that our children keep learning. They have quickly adapted to new technologies and tried to ensure that children still feel connected. I've been blown away by our youngsters who continue to share their work, develop their own passions and share these with others. And to everyone at home who helps them to do all of this.

At this time, it is unclear how long this social distancing will last. It is very different to normal life and we need to accept that learning will be different also. During this time, we as a school will aim to achieve the following:

- Promote positive mental health and well-being during social distancing.
- Continue to develop children's thinking and reasoning skills.
- Provide opportunities for children to revisit and consolidate what they have already learned.
- Provide learning and tasks that motivate and engage learners, giving them clear purpose in their learning.
- Promote positive family relationships.
- Maintain the community of Athelstaneford Primary School and work together to make the most of this time.

The summer term is always one of real excitement with transitions taking place and exciting events. Please rest assured that planning is already in place for transitions and we are working with North Berwick High School and our other partners to ensure effective transitions take place. We will aim to share information about this as soon as possible.

Please remember that we are all in this together. We are keen to help everyone to do their best during these difficult times. To help us, we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this home learning survey. It will help us to better understand how everyone is finding home learning.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKf7XO2JXNkFEui7x9ki9D1UOFFTQk1GTUVUR1NDTIhMRVI3SzA0RldGTy4u>

As always, if there is anything we can do to help please get in touch. Our school email is: admin@athelstaneford.elcschool.org.uk

Yours Faithfully,



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