

Billingshurst Primary School Interim Headteacher: Brian Ball MA

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to get in touch with you on this first day of the new term to introduce myself. Many of you will already know that my name is Brian Ball and I am your interim Headteacher for two terms whilst the school goes through a period of transition and begins the process of appointing a new permanent Headteacher.

I received a very warm welcome from the staff team at BPS on Friday 1st of September, our INSET day. It was great to be involved and good meeting the team and sharing in their positivity and enthusiasm for the coming year.

I believe much of my background details have been provided for you already. Just to confirm, I served as a Headteacher in West Sussex schools for many years and have also acted as an Interim Headteacher in two other West Sussex schools recently.

I am genuinely pleased to be joining your school and its community, to be involved in the school's progress and growth is a real privilege. I have met a few parents already, but I will be providing opportunities for you to meet me in the very near future and you will of course see me on the school gate frequently!

I am really looking forward to leading Billingshurst Primary School and contributing to the growth, change and development as the school moves towards academisation and the appointment of your new Headteacher.

Most importantly of course is working with your children ... there are a lot of them to meet and get to know! However, I have always regarded the direct interaction with pupils and parents as the most rewarding and important part of being a Headteacher.

On a separate but very important note, I wanted to clarify the school's situation regarding RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete). I am sure you will have seen this issue reported extensively in the news over the last few days and the DfE have also put together some information which can be accessed here.

We understand you may have concerns about if this impacts Billingshurst Primary School. We have contacted West Sussex County Council who confirmed that no schools in this local authority have been identified from the records they have and that a physical inspection of all schools constructed between 1930 and 2000 is being commissioned to provide added confidence. We will keep you up to date with any further developments.

On a final happy note, I wish to send my congratulations to Mrs Steer (formerly Miss Bennett-Jane) who was married over the summer and also to Mrs Cobden (formerly Miss Daniels) who was married at Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Ball Interim Headteacher







