

Welcome to Dan Mackinder, new Headteacher of Bude Park Primary School!

We are delighted to welcome Dan Mackinder as the new Headteacher of Bude Park Primary School. Having already worked successfully within Humber Education Trust, Dan brings a wealth of experience, a strong commitment to achieving excellence and a genuine passion for helping every child to thrive.

Dan's leadership is driven by the values of mutual respect, honesty and challenge and he is passionate about ensuring every pupil benefits from excellent teaching and support. Having spent over six years in assistant headship roles and taught across Key Stage 2 since beginning his teaching career in 2015, he brings extensive experience and a clear focus on improving outcomes for all children.

As Dan begins this exciting new chapter, we wanted to share a little more about him and his vision for the school community; read Dan's full question and answer interview below to learn more about his career, values and ambitions for Bude Park Primary School.



What attracted you to the Headteacher role at Bude Park Primary?

I was attracted to the role because it is an opportunity to work alongside a fantastic community and work together to continue the brilliant work that has taken place over the past number of years. It provides a fantastic opportunity to show that, with high expectations, there is no limit to what you can achieve.

The school is clearly a community hub and to be an active part in that in leading the school is incredibly exciting.

Why do you feel Bude Park Primary is the right fit for you?

The school feels like the right fit for me as I can see there is already a group of passionate and hard working staff, who aim to remove barriers each and every day so children can reach their full potential.

Each and every time I have spent time at Bude Park, the children have been delightful and incredibly welcoming. I look forward to spending time with all children, getting to know them and their families as individuals.

What do you enjoy most about working in primary education?

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and their families motivates me to give my all each and every day. Primary schools play a vital role at the heart of their communities, and I love being part of a team that can support children to achieve their best, overcome challenges and develop a lifelong love of learning.

How do you hope to support pupils to achieve their potential?

By ultimately working hard to ensure that each teacher at Bude Park is the greatest they can be. Every child deserves a great teacher in their classroom; by creating a culture of high expectations, collaboration and continuous improvement, we can ensure that every child receives the best possible education and is supported to reach their full potential.

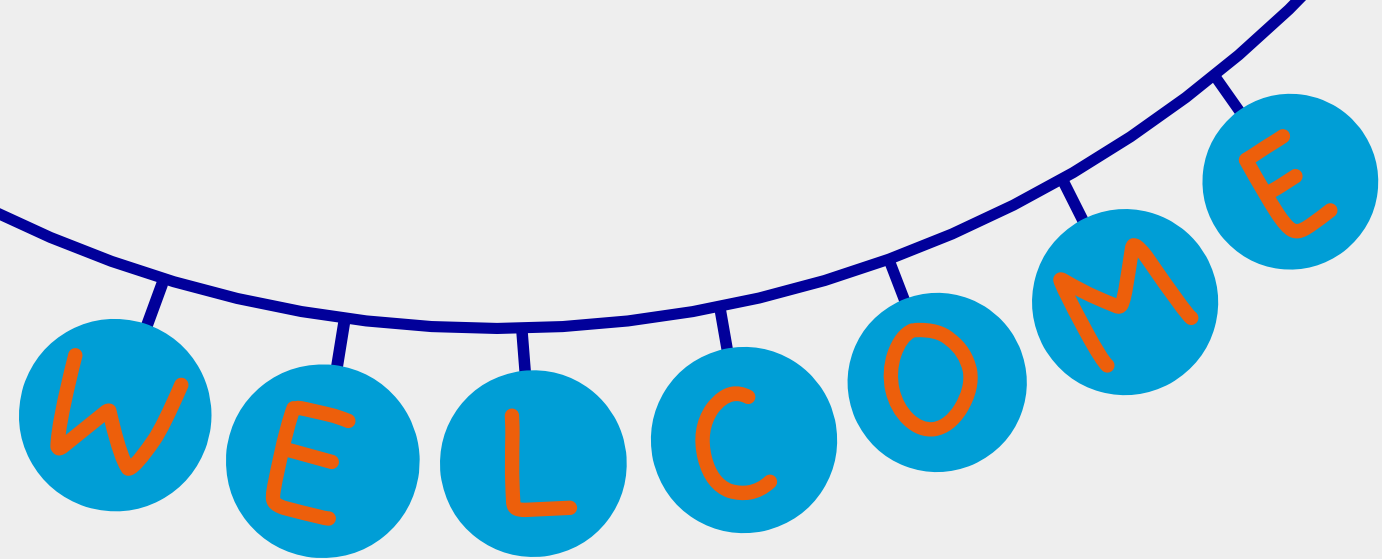
What values are most important to you as a leader?

Mutual respect, honesty and challenge.

I like to think that I am kind, fair and honest.

What was your favourite subject at primary school?

Maths, I have always enjoyed the logic behind it and the clarity in an answer being right and wrong.



What would you like pupils and families to know about you?

I aim to be as visible as possible, come over and introduce yourself. I look forward to getting to know you all!

I believe strong relationships are the foundation of a successful school, and I am looking forward to getting to know our pupils, families and staff over the coming months. I want everyone to feel valued, listened to and proud to be part of the Bude Park community, and I am excited to begin working together to build on the school's many strengths.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Spending time with my wife and son is my favourite part of everyday.

We spend evenings at the park and aim to have as many experiences as possible as a family outside of school.

Finally, do you have a favourite children's book?

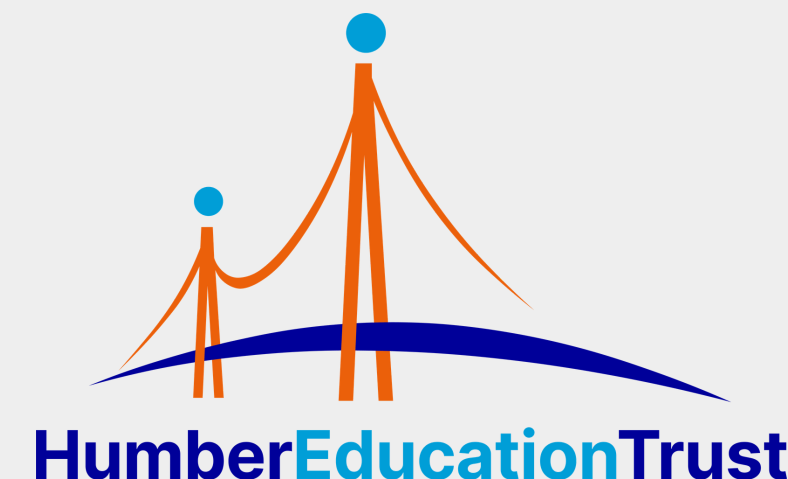
My current favourite children's book is 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' which I now know incredibly well after reading it almost daily to my little boy.

We are excited to welcome Dan to the Bude Park community and look forward to seeing the school continue to grow and flourish, building on its many strengths while creating new opportunities for pupils, families and staff.

With his commitment to high expectations, strong community relationships and ensuring every child has the best possible education, we look forward to supporting Dan on this journey and celebrating the next chapter of Bude Park's success together.



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Welcome to Helen Smith, New Headteacher of Highlands Primary School!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Helen Smith as the new Headteacher of Highlands Primary School.

Helen is a familiar and highly valued member of the Highlands community, having worked at the school since 2008. Over the past 18 years, she has built strong relationships with pupils, families, staff and the wider community, while developing a deep understanding of the school's values, strengths and aspirations. Her experience teaching across every primary year group has given her a comprehensive understanding of children's learning and development, as well as the knowledge and leadership experience needed to guide the school into its next chapter.

As Highlands Primary School embarks on this exciting new chapter, we sat down with Helen to learn more about her career journey, her aspirations for the school and what inspires her both inside and outside the classroom.



What attracted you to the Headteacher role at Highlands Primary?

Having worked at Highlands Primary since 2008, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand what makes this school such a special place.

The opportunity to become Headteacher was particularly appealing because I care deeply about the future of Highlands Primary and the community it serves. I am incredibly proud to have been part of the school's journey for so many years and excited by the opportunity to build on its many successes.

What are your hopes and ambitions for the school?

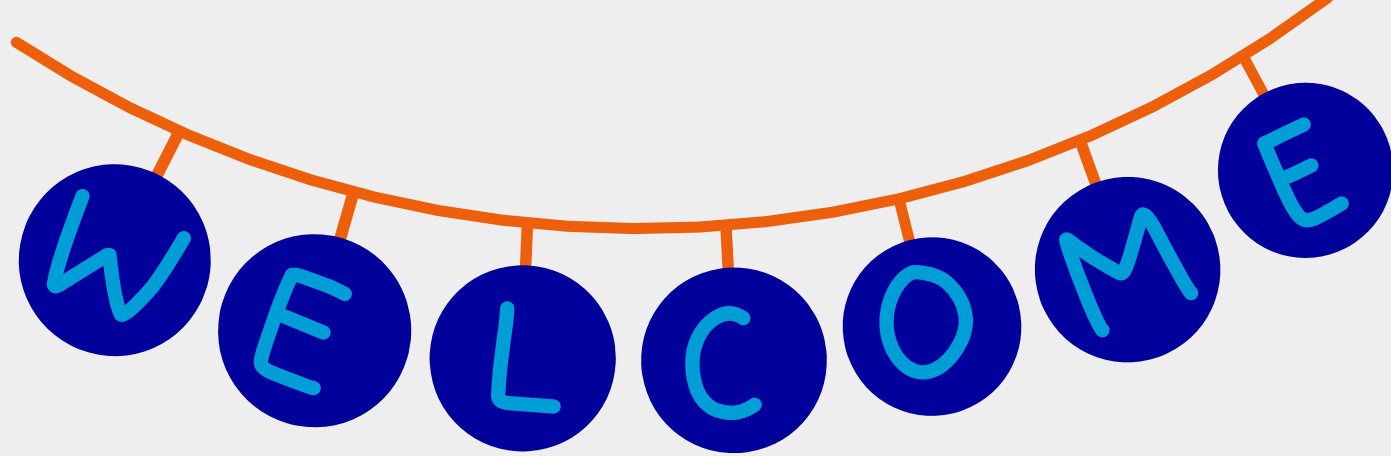
I am committed to ensuring that we continue to provide an excellent education, while maintaining the warm, nurturing environment that is at the heart of Highlands. By working closely with our staff, families and wider community, I want every child to leave Highlands with the confidence, knowledge, resilience and ambition to achieve their full potential and be proud of who they are.

What have you learned about the school that has inspired you?

Over the years, I have built strong relationships with our children, families, staff and the wider community and I have developed a deep understanding of the school's values, strengths and aspirations. During my time at Highlands, I have gained experience teaching across all year groups, which has given me a comprehensive understanding of children's learning and development throughout the primary phase. This breadth of experience has helped me to develop a well-rounded perspective on curriculum progression, pupil needs and the factors that contribute to successful outcomes for all children.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my young family and making the most of opportunities to be together. Family is very important to me, and I love sharing new experiences and creating lasting memories with them. I am also an avid reader and enjoy listening to podcasts, particularly those that help me learn and reflect on new ideas. In my spare time, I enjoy sewing, which provides a creative outlet and a chance to relax and unwind.



you can do
ANYTHING
you just have to be
DETERMINED



How do you hope to support pupils to achieve their potential?

My hopes and ambitions for the school are rooted in a simple belief: every child can succeed when they are given the right support, encouragement and opportunities. I want Highlands Primary to continue to be a school where every child is known, valued and cared for as an individual. Every pupil has their own unique strengths, talents and dreams, and it is our responsibility to help them discover and develop these.

What was your favourite subject at primary school?

I was always a bit of an all-rounder and enjoyed learning across the curriculum at Primary School. One of my favourite subjects was PE, as I loved being active, taking part in team activities and developing new skills. I also really enjoyed art because it gave me the opportunity to be creative and express ideas in different ways. Both subjects taught me important lessons about confidence, perseverance and self-expression.

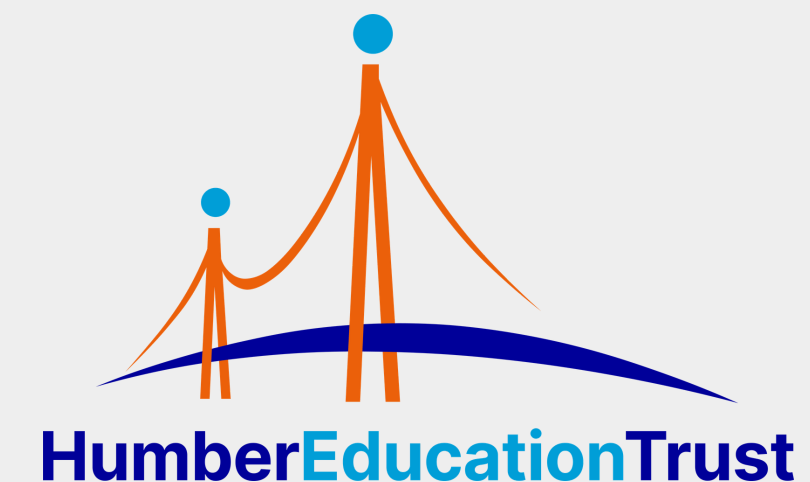
Finally, do you have a favourite children's book?

One of my favourite children's books is 'Flour Babies' by Anne Fine. I first enjoyed it as a child and it has stayed with me ever since. The story is full of humour, but it also explores important themes such as responsibility, kindness and understanding the impact our actions have on others. It is a book that makes you smile while also making you think, which is one of the reasons I remember it so fondly. I think it's a wonderful example of a story that can be enjoyed at any age.

We are thrilled to welcome Helen into her new role at Highlands Primary School and look forward to seeing the school continue to build on its many strengths. We are excited to support her on this journey and to see Highlands Primary School continue to thrive as an inspiring and nurturing environment where children are supported, challenged and encouraged to be the very best they can be.



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Welcome to Simon Harris, New Headteacher of Woodland Primary School!

We are delighted to welcome Simon Harris as the new Headteacher of Woodland Primary School. Simon brings with him 15 years of experience in primary education, including the last eight and a half years working within Humber Education Trust at Kingswood Parks Primary School, most recently as Deputy Headteacher. Simon's appointment at Woodland Primary School is particularly special as he grew up in the local area and is passionate about making a positive difference to the community that helped shape his own educational journey.

Driven by a belief that every child deserves the very best opportunities in life, Simon's leadership is rooted in high aspirations, strong community partnerships and a commitment to ensuring that children are at the heart of every decision. His values of fairness, kindness and ambition align closely with Woodland Primary School's vision.

As Woodland Primary School prepares for an exciting new chapter, we sat down with Simon to learn more about his background, his connection to the local community and his hopes for the future of the school.



What attracted you to the Headteacher role at Woodland Primary?

The opportunity to make a difference in the place where I grew up. I'm incredibly passionate about this community and what education can achieve for local children and families. Being able to lead a school in an area that means so much to me is a real privilege.

How do you hope to support pupils to achieve their potential?

By having high expectations and aspirations for every child, every day. I want all pupils to experience high-quality teaching and learning, while also accessing a wide range of enrichment opportunities. These experiences help develop the whole child, build cultural capital and prepare them for their next steps in education and beyond.

Why do you feel Woodland Primary is the right fit for you?

Because I have such a strong connection to the area; I grew up here and understand what it is like to go to school locally and the impact that a great education can have on a child's future. I know the families in the area well and have always found them to be open, honest and supportive. That shared understanding and sense of community makes Woodland feel like the perfect fit. I've also spent ten years coaching football at Flinton Fields and was proud to help the team achieve promotion to Division Two!

I've already been struck by how hardworking and honest the families are. They clearly want the very best for their children, which is exactly what we want too. The children themselves are fantastic and full of personality. I've also received such a warm welcome from the staff and it's been inspiring to meet the Chair of Governors, whose passion for the school really shines through.

What do you enjoy most about working in primary education?

The lightbulb moments! Seeing children make exceptional progress from their starting points is truly magical. It's not just academic success that makes primary education special; children grow in confidence, develop friendships and discover their talents. Every day is different and I genuinely look forward to coming to school each morning.

What was your favourite subject at primary school?

That's a difficult choice! I'd probably have to say Maths, because I've always loved it. PE was a close second and Music would take third place.



What message would you like to share with parents and carers?

We are all on the same team. Parents, carers and staff all want the same thing - to help children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to succeed. Children achieve more when school and home work together and I look forward to building those strong partnerships with families.

What values are most important to you as a leader?

Children always come first. Every decision we make should be driven by what is best for the children. I also strongly believe in ethical leadership and the Nolan Principles of public life. No one person can achieve success alone - it takes a whole team working together. Schools do amazing things when everyone pulls in the same direction.

Children only get one chance at their education, so it's our responsibility to make it the very best it can be. It is a privilege to be part of that journey.

We are delighted to welcome Simon to the Woodland community and look forward to seeing the school continue to build on its many strengths. We are excited to support Simon on this journey and to see Woodland Primary School thrive as a beacon of excellence that inspires pride, ambition and success for years to come.

What would you like the pupils to know about you?

I probably won't mention that I'm a Leeds United supporter!

More importantly, I want every child to know that I'm on their team. I want the very best for them and will do everything in my power to help them succeed. I'm a fair person and I want every child to enjoy coming to school; I can't wait to see all their amazing work, achievements and efforts.



*We can never
achieve greatness
alone*

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

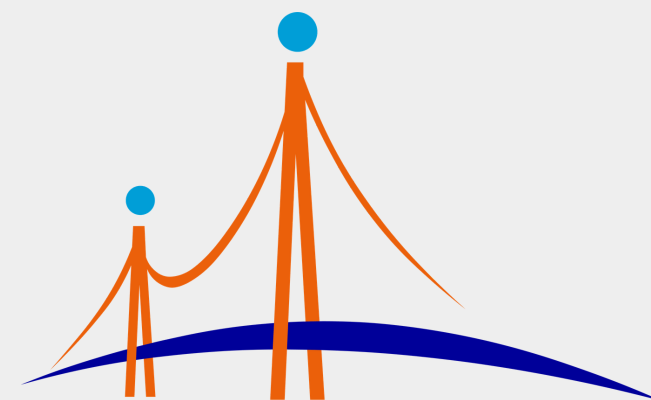
I enjoy spending time with my family and my two daughters. I also enjoy playing golf and padel, which help me stay active and unwind outside of school.

Finally, do you have a favourite children's book?

I love reading with my own children, and there are a few favourites that we always come back to: 'Peace at Last', 'What the Ladybird Heard' and 'Fantastic Mr Fox' are all books I really enjoy sharing.



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