



The last time the school posted an article in the Parish magazine, Elizabeth Underwood was introducing herself as the Executive Head of the Three Hares, with Tara Penny as Chagford CE Primary School's Head of School. Well, what a difference a few months makes!

Elizabeth Underwood has become an Executive Principal within the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust, with a special focus on developing a MAT-wide curriculum, as well leading the DMAT Church schools. Tara Penny has become Principal at North Tawton Community Primary School (another of our Three Hares schools), and this school has welcomed Ed Finch as its new Principal.

Needless to say, that is a lot of change for the children and staff to have experienced, on top of a pandemic, but Ed has settled in very well, and the school has embraced the changes with all the enthusiasm and optimism we have come to admire within the school and our community.

One of Ed's key interests is in developing the outdoor spaces at the school, which are so full of opportunity, both for the youngest children in the Foundation Stage Unit and for the children in Years One to Six, so that they are welcoming and exciting places for children to play and learn. For example, we'd like to provide seating for the children who want to be quiet or to talk, opportunities to climb and experience the thrill of jumping, and provocations for exercise, contemplation and wonder.

A great deal of care has been given to these spaces since the new building was created. We have our very own stone circle - the children call it 'Stonehenge' - and a splendid Dartmoor Stone Cross at the front of the school. The vibrant flowers in our colourful front garden, which has been carefully tended by our Gardening Committee during lockdown and beyond, are now attracting humans, bees, butterflies and all manner of other bugs. Our intention is to make spaces which enrich every moment of every day, from playtime to pick up.

In addition to Ed's ambitions, one of our passionate pupils has set up an eco-club for their peers, which will include litter picking, planting and growing and environmental campaigning. Whilst we're proud that the club is pupil-run, we know they will need a little help from adults, and if you would like to offer to help out with this club, please do get in touch. You will need a DBS check, and this can be carried out by the school, if necessary.

One thing that has remained consistent throughout this year has been a focus on the school's values, one of which is given particular attention each half term. These are: Hope; Respect; Courage; Kindness; Honesty; and Curiosity. We very much hope that, as a community, you can see these values shining through our wonderful children.

If you would like to offer any help to the school in achieving its goals, whether that is through a financial donation, practical hands-on help or your knowledge and expertise in a specific area, please do get in touch, by emailing admin@chagford-primary.devon.sch.uk in the first instance, addressing it to Ed Finch. We look forward to sharing more with you next term!