Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a happy and restful summer filled with fun, special moments and perhaps a few new adventures! We are very excited to welcome our pupils back for another wonderful year of learning, friendship and discovery.

A particularly warm welcome goes to the children beginning their journey with us in Reception, and to all the parents and carers joining the Atlantic family for the first time. Starting school is a very special milestone. We look forward to getting to know you, celebrating your children's achievements and helping them feel happy, confident and at home in our school community.

Thank you to everyone who shared news of pupils' holiday achievements through achievements@atlantic-aspirations.org. Whether your child learned a new skill, enjoyed sporting success, performed on stage, helped someone in the community or overcame a personal challenge, we love hearing about the things that make them proud.

Start-of-term arrangements

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – INSET days; school closed to pupils
- Thursday 3rd September – Reception Home Visits
- Friday 4th September – all pupils in school

Myself and the senior team will be at the gates from 8:25 a.m. each morning to welcome pupils and families. The gates close promptly at 8:40 a.m., so please ensure your child arrives in good time and is ready for the day ahead.

Beginning with Belonging Week

We will begin the new year with **Belonging Week**; a joyful week of activities designed to help every child feel happy, safe and proud to be part of our school community.

Throughout the week, pupils will reconnect with friends, get to know their teachers and classmates, explore our shared values and learn about the important contribution they make to their class and school. We want every child to begin the year knowing: I belong here, I am valued and I can succeed.

The celebrations will continue with a **Colour Run on Friday 11th September.** This promises to be a fun and exciting way to bring our community together and mark the beginning of the new school year. Further practical information will be shared with families before the event.

Welcoming colleagues

We are delighted to welcome **Miss Samways**, who joins us as a Primary Teacher in Year 3. **Mrs Jameson** also joins us in the Primary team in Year 4,

Miss Johnson has now begun her maternity leave, and we send her and her family our very best wishes. Miss Cornell and Mrs Dear will continue to be with us throughout this half-term, supporting a smooth and settled start to the year.

We are also very pleased to welcome **Miss Ramsey** back from maternity leave. We know pupils and families will join us in giving all our new and returning colleagues a warm welcome.

Additional pastoral support

In response to feedback from parents and pupils, we are introducing a new Pastoral Support Leader role this year. Each House will have a dedicated, non-teaching member of staff:

- Mrs Savage – **Chesil House**
- Mrs Hayton – **Church Ope House**
- Ms Gaillie – **Castle Cove House**

Our Pastoral Support Leaders will provide an additional layer of care and guidance for all pupils. They will be available throughout the school day to offer practical and pastoral support, helping pupils feel known, listened to and ready to learn.

Our priorities

Our priorities this year are focused on helping every child build strong foundations and develop a lifelong love of learning:

- **Being in school every day:** Last year, attendance improved across all phases, supported by our families. Every day matters in primary school, as children are continually building new knowledge, friendships and routines.
- **Building strong foundations:** We will help children securely develop the reading, writing, mathematical and wider subject knowledge appropriate to their age. These essential building blocks give children the confidence to enjoy and succeed in future learning.
- **Helping every child achieve:** We will provide engaging, ambitious teaching that enables every child to make progress and feel proud of what they accomplish.
- **Supporting individual needs:** Teachers will adapt learning and provide appropriate support so that children with different starting points and additional needs can participate, flourish and succeed.

Smart, proud and ready to learn

We ask for your support in helping children come to school each day wearing the correct uniform, with everything they need and ready to enjoy their learning. The policy is available on the website.

Our uniform helps children feel that they belong and encourages them to take pride in themselves and their school. Please make sure that clothing, coats, shoes, bags and other belongings are clearly labelled—named items are much more likely to find their way home!

If your family needs any help with uniform, please speak to us. We will always do our best to offer support.

The beginning of a school year is a special time, full of possibility. By working together, we can make this a year in which every child feels welcomed, develops a love of learning and achieves things that make them—and us—proud.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Heppell
Principal

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