



# Horsmonden Primary School

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Headteacher

Mrs Tracy Thomas

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to announce that Scott Opstad, head teacher at Paddock Wood Primary School, will join us as our new head teacher immediately after the Easter break.

In a career spanning 25 years, Mr Opstad has a strong track record of school improvement. He has spent more than 20 years in senior leadership roles and more than 10 in successful headships. He was previously head of primary schools in Scotland and Folkestone, and has spearheaded great improvements at Paddock Wood Primary School.

We are all very excited that a head of Scott's calibre will be joining Horsmonden Primary School, and he will carry out the role across both schools. Mr Opstad will lead the school in close partnership with Hayley Sharp, who takes on the new role of associate head teacher. Along with a greater leadership role, Mrs Sharp will extend her working days to four, working Monday to Thursday.

Mr Opstad will divide his time equally between Horsmonden and Paddock Wood, and he expects to spend time in both schools every day.

This appointment will also deepen the collaboration we already have with Paddock Wood and Capel schools, generating even more benefits to the school, pupils and staff. All the governors are sure these appointments will strengthen our leadership team and help the school build on the hard work and the improvements that Mrs Thomas and the staff have made in recent years.

Mr Opstad says: "My specific focuses are on high quality learning and teaching in the context of a wide and balanced curriculum, with due careful regard for children's wellbeing. I am committed to a high visible presence in school every day."

Mr Opstad will attend the forthcoming parents evening on 22 March and he will be very pleased to meet and speak informally with parents and families, so please do introduce yourself and say hello. More importantly, Mr Opstad would like to invite parents to a coffee afternoon on Tuesday 17 April to introduce himself formally and speak more about his vision for our school. I hope as many of you as possible are able to make it.

In the meantime, I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Mrs Thomas for all her dedication and enthusiasm as our head teacher. I hope you get a chance over the next couple of weeks to speak to her personally and wish her well in her new role at Marden Primary School.

Best regards,

Bob Sherwood

Chair of Governors

