

# Andrew Jackson

## *This is your life at Goxhill Primary School*

**A**t the end of this term Goxhill Primary School will be saying a very sad goodbye to its popular headteacher, Andrew Jackson. Andrew has been promoted to a headship at a very large school in Hull. Their gain is our loss.

The pupils, staff, governors and parents would like to pay this tribute to Andrew.

Andrew began at the school, as deputy, in 1998 and has been head since 2001. Andrew has implemented many improvements and changes in that time and past pupils who visit the school can often not recognise it as the school that they once attended.

So what has changed?

### **Academic achievement and standards**

Andrew took over the school at a time when OFSTED found it to have serious weaknesses. In July 2008 OFSTED visited once again and thanks to his excellent leadership, this time they found Goxhill School to be a good school with many outstanding features. Standards have improved with more emphasis on teaching quality and pupils' achievement. The school has high expectations of all children and there has been a good impact of 'praise richness', all pervasive positivism & the celebration of achievement. There has been extensive staff development and Andrew's policy of employing at least one full time teaching assistant per year group has driven standards up. Attendance has improved vastly with updated systems and procedures and pupils are eager to come to school. Andrew has developed a calm working atmosphere in the school which is welcoming and caring and this

ethos generates good mutual respect and trust. All pupils now wear uniform which indicates that they are proud to belong to the school community. He also introduced a positive behaviour system. The main pillar of which is to praise, celebrate and reward. At Goxhill School our pupils are keen to succeed and as such we ensure that they are duly rewarded for their efforts!

Andrew has also established effective anti bullying policies and pastoral monitoring systems. Our children care for each other; are well-mannered and polite and are capable of taking responsibility. The ethos of the school has been praised by OFSTED and underpins a culture that aims to raise attainment.

To further improve standards, Andrew introduced curriculum enrichment opportunities like the participation in National Film Week, activity days and termly school visits. These have further motivated pupils to be their very best. The pupils now benefit from drama and music days, French lessons and high quality additional resources.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have greatly benefited from residential visits like The Great Robinwood Adventure Weekend and the week long stay in Yorkshire. These visits are jammed packed with team-building and personal achievement adventure activities such as climbing, canoeing, archery and caving.

### **The building**

Goxhill School was built in 1976 but there had been little change to the actual structure of the building until Andrew arrived. Since then many of you will have noticed that there has been extensive building works, considerable refurbishment and updating at the school which have replaced the original accommodation.

There has been large scale refurbishment (internally & externally) in fact no area has been left un-touched! The school now has a purpose built Foundation Unit and outdoor play area, an IT suite, two new classrooms, a larger hall, a disabled toilet and an administration block with additional rooms which staff can use to support and meet the individual needs of pupils. The ageing pupil toilet blocks have been completely refurbished and on the playground we have a super dedicated ball park. This multi-purpose sports area is very popular with the youngsters. We also have new playground equipment. There are two low-level assault courses, which have things like rope bridges and balancing planks to climb across. The children have a wonderful time on these and because of the specialist soft-fall surface underneath the equipment the whole area is very safe and child-friendly. The new perimeter fencing means that when parents leave their children at school they can be sure that they are safe. The school has also become 'greener' as all windows have been replaced with new double glazed units. Even the small car park has been improved.

This has resulted in the local school benefiting from a top quality learning environment which is attractive, tidy, safe and accessible.

### **Information and Communication Technology**

Andrew planned and installed a new computer suite in the school and led Goxhill School

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