



Dear Applicant,

RE: Application for post of Year 3 class teacher: fixed term contract for one year (to cover a teacher secondment) – information for candidates

We are delighted you are considering applying for this post at our school. Recruiting new members of staff into our team is always an exciting time; the Sticklepath journey has been built around the passions of our staff and their dedication to our children and community and we know any new member of staff, whatever their experience or role, will impact with fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

Sticklepath is a wonderful school and the children and school community are warm and welcoming. The children are taught from the very earliest age about the brainology of learning and the importance to success of hard work, perseverance and resilience. The school has been involved in some very exciting work on Growth Mindsets, Working Memory and Curriculum Design and we are a lead Achievement for All school, based around the work we are doing for our most disadvantaged pupils. Our staff seek out the latest thinking in the field of learning and some of our most exciting initiatives have started off as informal action research in the classrooms.

This post is for a class teacher to teach within our Year 3/4 team in a Year 3 class. The post is a full-time fixed term position for one year to cover a teacher secondment. We joined a new Multi Academy Trust in September 2018 - the Tarka Learning Partnership - so there is potential for career development and professional development across a number of schools in the future. Eden Park Academy, which the two co-headteachers of Sticklepath will also be leading in September, is very likely to be recruiting for a new teacher in September 2022 when the current teacher secondment ends.

Our school is on the outskirts of Barnstaple on an estate called Woodville. The catchment is very mixed including areas of social housing, old and new and private housing. There is a rapidly expanding estate called Roundswell nearby and the school has increased in size to a two-form entry. We currently have approximately 470 pupils on role (including our nursery) with a waiting list in many year groups.

One of the school's and the area's greatest challenges remains the low aspirations of many in the community but we are tackling this successfully in many ways; motivating and engaging our children to be aspirational for themselves is a key part of the work we do.

Some of the other strengths of the school are: -

- ✓ An ambitious and determined leadership and teaching staff, uncompromising in their commitment to every child succeeding within a rich, holistic curriculum designed around our vision for learning
- ✓ A warm, friendly staff who are committed to change and improvement and support each other wholeheartedly
- ✓ A creative and thoughtful approach to curriculum design that is currently being revisited - this is exciting new work for the school
- ✓ A long tradition of outstanding inclusion and safeguarding work with an exceptional reputation working with SEND
- ✓ A commitment to staff professional learning and CPD, including the new Early Career Framework
- ✓ Close proximity to Exmoor and the stunning beaches of North Devon
- ✓ A supportive Local Governing Body and PTFA

- ✓ A network of local schools, including Eden Park which will be led by the executive co-headteachers from September 2021 and a local secondary school - all part of the Tarka Learning Partnership MAT
- ✓ An onsite Forest Schools area (this is the jewel in our crown!) and specialist teachers in art, music and drama
- ✓ An approach to social and emotional learning based on the THRIVE approach (many of us are Thrive trained)
- ✓ Staff with a thirst for learning who critically engage in the latest educational research and continuously reflect on their practice - and we love a good debate!

The pressure on our school – like every other - is constant and we are a school that will probably always be challenged to meet or exceed national attainment measures. However, we remain committed to educating the whole child and delivering rigorous teaching of the basics within a rich and dynamic curriculum.

If you feel inspired by what you have read, then we look forward to hearing from you. We strongly recommend you try and visit the school (this will currently need to be 'after hours' due to Covid restrictions) or if not, make a telephone appointment to speak with either Sam Warner or Richard Blunt so that we can give you further information about the post and answer any questions you may have. You can access our prospectus and current newsletters online and our website gives a flavour of what the school is like - but there is nothing like seeing us 'in the flesh'.

We very much look forward to meeting with you soon or speaking on the phone. Do not hesitate to contact the school should you require further information.

Good luck!

Best Wishes

Ms Samantha Warner  
Co-Headteacher

Mr Richard Blunt  
Co-Headteacher