Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Class Teacher** within ‘The Orchard’, the SEN Unit, at Highfield Community Primary School.

We are excited to have recently opened the doors to 'The Orchard’ at Highfield after refurbishment work to our annex building. We want to be able to meet the varying needs of SEN children in our locality, including supporting those within the mainstream part of our school. Our unit is to home a sensory / regulatory room which children can access along with well-staffed and resourced classrooms with a creative curriculum which will allow the children to engage and progress to their potential. We want to provide a safe environment that children are excited about coming to each day. The building itself will offer a nurturing and less stimulating environment to support those children with interaction and communication needs including autism. We will have small classes and a high staff to pupil ratio to ensure the children feel safe and can develop self-regulation strategies to access their potential. We aim to develop a curriculum alongside Highfield teaching staff so that the children will be taught the core curriculum at their level, regardless of their age. They will be grouped according to their needs, behaviours as well as their academic ability. We aim to take a more creative 'Learning challenge' approach which may be evidenced in class big books as opposed to individual books, depending on their ability. We will develop a curriculum which has a strong focus on therapeutic interventions and social, communication and interaction skills. We are excited about the opportunities the unit can offer to our community and have an enthusiastic school team ready to welcome The Orchard and its team of staff and pupils to its already successful and supportive workforce.

Alongside being the school deputy head teacher, I have been the SEN Unit lead since September and have been resourcing the new unit, ensuring we were ready to open the doors to the first of its pupils after February half-term. Pupil numbers in each class will be smaller than in a mainstream class to allow for a more specialist teaching approach. We have initially opened one class and will be ready for the second class to start in September, hence needing to grow our staff team. We will cater for pupils with social communication and interaction needs (to include autism spectrum disorder) and provide a personalised curriculum to meet the outcomes outlined in their Educational Health and Care Plan. We will provide specialist teaching, interventions and therapeutic approaches to ensure the children maximise their learning potential and enjoy a safe and secure learning environment which is right for them. We will provide provision mapping for each child, an engaging and creative teaching approach and memorable learning experiences tailored to meet the needs of every child.

The Unit will work closely with Highfield Community Primary School and we hope to coordinate many activities and resources with the staff team and pupils. We are extremely fortunate to have the specialist provision, yet work as part of a larger mainstream team, allowing us the best possible balance.

Staff well-being is also an important aspect of our school culture. Staff are encouraged and provided with regular opportunities to develop and maintain their well-being. Support including supervision and opportunities to get together as a staff are all examples of how we work to achieve this. **All staff are valued and success is celebrated.**

As you will already have seen from the job advertisement and person specification, the SEN Unit at Highfield Community Primary School is looking for a Class Teacher for the KS2 class, opening in September this year. We are looking for someone who is committed to securing the best outcomes for all children and is prepared to go the extra mile to achieve this. The successful candidate should share our high expectations whilst demonstrating the warmth, humour and resilience which are central to the values of our school. First and foremost, we are looking for a candidate who is an outstanding teacher with the ability to lead by example and secure the respect and trust of colleagues, children, governors and parents.

We are proud of our open-door policy and all interested parties are strongly advised to visit the school for a guided tour before applying. Please phone the school to arrange a visit and to meet the staff and children. Additionally, feel free to call the school to speak with me if you require any further information. Thank you for expressing an interest in joining our team. I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,

Jane Smethurst

Deputy head and SEN Unit Lead