**Mr Charlton**

Thrilled and excited, proud and eager (although with a natural edge of nervousness I guess), I’m so very happy to be working at Whittingham C of E Primary as Deputy Headteacher and Class 3 Teacher. Although it may sound a little cheesy to some people, my biggest passions in teaching and learning are seeing children constantly improve and flourish in all aspects – it could be in art in terms of teaching new sketching skills for instance or developing someone’s confidence and self-belief. All aspects of being part of giving someone the tools to succeed and be safe, happy and healthy are my passions in teaching and learning.

I’ve taught since 2012 and have done an array of roles which has given me great experiences and development. Sometimes it’s been hard and has taken a lot to manage certain situations and projects but I feel I handle well under pressure. I’ve always been able to keep a fairly calm head even when things may be difficult or tense but I suppose I was able to do this even better through my previous job with North Yorkshire Police. As part of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team in the police, I experienced a wide range of police-related tasks from neighbour disputes to burglaries, from violence to finding missing people and checking in on vulnerable people. All of those roles had their own demands and so I had to act calmly and with determination to succeed despite the stresses and challenges involved.

The main thing that I feel is at the root of ensuring a good education for all is respect. This applies to all aspects of our lives and is what I seek to ensure occurs without fail in my classes and schools. If you have a mutual level of respect then you will naturally be more open to listen and try new skills/ techniques. Without respect, it’s like a series of doors being closed and no ideas, emotions or knowledge can be shared. Because of this, I make sure my tone and the way I act with everyone is how I would like and expect to be treated. As such, I’d like to think that I’m perceived as friendly and firm but fair (on a scale, I reckon I’m around an 8/10 on the ‘strict-ometer’). When I started teaching, my favourite lessons to teach were PE, Music and Maths as these were the subjects I felt most confident and did best in. I was actually surprised at how much I enjoyed teaching maths, doing calculations such as 1 + 2 x 93 (the answer being 187). Now I actually like teaching everything.

Outside of school, I’ve got a few hobbies that I try to do whenever I have time. I love watching all sports (lately I’ve been getting into watching American Football) but, to play, I like hockey and football best. I used to play at a pretty good standard in hockey, playing at county level for Yorkshire. I’ve supported the Toon Army (Newcastle United) since I can remember and used to have season tickets until I was about 18 when they got really expensive. I also have loved running since I started high school. I’m not much of a sprinter but enjoy longer distances and used to compete in cross-countries when I was younger. I’m still training for The Great North Run in September.

I also have 2 dogs and a daughter, who all like to run me ragged – I wouldn’t have it any other way though! The eldest dog, Charlie, is a mixture of lots of breeds and is very clever and sweet. Mojo, the younger dog is a mix between a Maltese and a Yorkshire terrier and is a little crazy at times. I also love to read and mainly like fantasy adventure books, my all-time favourites being the mighty Harry Potter series. I think my favourite out of all of them is Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. I also like to crash in front of the TV but I rarely get to pick what to watch – my daughter loves a cartoon called Phineas and Ferb and I actually really like it too now.

As well as being ecstatic to be living in the world’s most beautiful and amazing county – Northumberland - I’m really happy to be with you at Whittingham and will strive to give you the very best experiences throughout your time at the school!