



SHERSTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Learning,
Caring &
Achieving
Together*

**Headteacher
Mr Tommy Towers**

a Knockdown Road
Sherston
Malmesbury
Wiltshire
SN16 0NJ

t 01666 840237

e admin@sherston.wilts.sch.uk

w sherstonprimary.co.uk

Meet the Headteacher

From a very young age I have had a passion for music and performing. As a young adult I loved nothing more than being on a stage and entertaining a crowd, however as time went by I realised I was not going to be able to do this for a living. I'll never forget thinking to myself, 'What can I do where I get to stand up in front of people and perform every day?' Before I knew it, I was a primary school teacher! I spent the first ten years of my career teaching in Central London where I met my wife Jenna who is also a teacher. I loved my time there, living and working in my community felt special. As a young teacher I could feel the value in understanding the community, immersing yourself in it and being a central figure for those around you; this experience was invaluable when Jenna and I both worked in the closest primary school to Grenfell Tower. The impact that this disaster had on my community was huge. As a school we were fortunate that all three of the families we had that lived in the tower survived, however we did lose ex-families and friends of the school. Everyone in the community lost someone they knew in that awful disaster. Almost half of our school were placed in temporary accommodation. During this time, we did not close the school for a single day. We continued to teach, support and nurture the children and families in our care. It was a unique time that I look back on with great sadness, but also immense pride. My late father once told me that I wouldn't make a fortune as a teacher, I replied, 'I don't want to make a fortune, I want to make a difference.' I know that the work we did for those children and families made a huge difference. When they had lost almost everything, we as a school remained constant. This experience helped shape me into the leader I am today.

Jenna and I left London on 2018, it was one of the hardest things we had to do. Having grown up in Swindon, we decided to move to Tetbury, close to family. I found myself as a deputy head in a prep school in Cricklade. With no experience in independent school education, I very much had to learn on the job. However, I had a strong set of values that I could fall back on. I believe wholeheartedly that education and work should be fun. If you can't find fun in education then it is not for you. Working with children is one of the most incredible, rewarding things you can do. They bring a magic and innocence back into the adult life, it is a joy and privilege to do the work I do. Despite this, I was never going to have my own children. Jenna and I had our minds set on this. Why would we want children when we spend all day with them? Skip to November 2021, my identical twin boys were born! I have loved every moment of being a father. Rafferty and Ramy are now two years old and great fun. Their birth, coupled with the passing of my father, led me to re-evaluate where I am in life and what I am doing. Almost a year ago to the day I applied for my first headship. I noticed the job advert for the headship in Sherston Primary around Christmas time 2022 and spent a long time thinking about it. I couldn't shake the feeling that this was a school that I would love to be part of. The vision and values aligned with my own and despite my time in the city, I always knew I wanted to work in a small village primary school. It only took one visit to the school for me to realise that this was the school for me.

Whilst working in Cricklade I missed the 'community feel' that I had experienced in London. When I was offered the headship in Sherston I immediately accepted and then began talking to Jenna about moving into the village. She was only too keen; our plan has always been for Rafferty and Ramy to walk to their local school. It would be an added bonus if it was also the school I work in. Before we knew it, the house was sold in Tetbury and an offer was accepted on our new home in Sherston. It's been such a whirlwind since then and I have loved it. From the moment I began as head at Sherston Primary I have been made to feel welcome in the community. The school is in a brilliant place, the staff have worked incredibly hard to get it there, I am very lucky to be able to take the lead

and continue to move the school in a positive direction. My message is always clear, children should be at the heart of what we do; every decision we make, every policy we write, every meeting we have should benefit the children. If it does not, it should not happen. Since September the children, staff, parents and wider community have all been open to my vision of what a school should be like, how it should feel. Schools do not have to be these overstimulating, busy, noisy and cluttered environments where teachers are overworked and tired. When considering the 'modern' child's life, one can be forgiven for saying they are rather busy, particularly at the weekends. Often our children are attending community events, sports fixtures, visiting families and friends or spending time being active with their immediate family. Therefore, it is crucial that Sherston Primary is an antidote to that. The vision for the school is for the children and adults to enter a calm, peaceful environment devoid of the cliché so often found in school. Clutter is minimised, surfaces utilised for display and colours are not overstimulating. The school environment must enable us to realise our whole school vision 'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together'. I regularly encourage the teachers to go home and not spend their time working. The children feed off the energy of their teacher, therefore it is crucial they feel supported and cared for.

I am now into my third term at Sherston Primary and I am loving it. There is a true balance of fun and focus in the school. It's a wonderful place to work and I feel so honoured to be part of something so special. As the school continues to go from strength-to-strength I can say with real optimism how excited I am for the future of the school. One only has to come for a visit, meet the incredible children and committed staff to see what a remarkable school it is.

Tommy Towers