

# ONE OF OUR OWN

introduces

## JENNIFER ASHWORTH

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Primary teacher with Excell Supply



### EXPERIENCE TO DATE

I studied for my degree, 'Primary Education with QTS' at Bangor University. After graduating, I did some supply teaching and then got a job as a Year 4 teacher at a primary school in Wrexham. I taught at this school for 8 years and completed my Master's degree. I led Geography and Music throughout the school and ran the School Council. This September, I started supply teaching with Excell and I'm loving the wealth of experience I'm getting from teaching

such varied year groups in a range of different schools.

### SPECIALISMS

Geography, Music and Mathematics.

### EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Pupil voice is important to me and creating opportunities for pupils to be listened to, and involving children's ideas and interests in their learning, is something close to my heart.

### FAVOURITE TEACHER FROM SCHOOL

My favourite teacher was a maths teacher I had in secondary school, called Miss Jones. At the time I found maths quite tricky and lacked confidence. Miss Jones really helped me conquer my fear of maths and, with her encouragement and support, I began to really enjoy maths as opposed to dreading it. So much so, I even decided to take A Level maths! She was really kind and so supportive, I felt like she really cared and she is someone I aspire to.

### GREATEST CLASSROOM ACHIEVEMENT

I think one of the greatest achievements has to be watching the children in my class grow in confidence and really come out of their shells. I aim to create a nurturing ethos in my class where children feel confident and able to take charge of their own learning. Seeing some of the quieter and shy children develop into confident and expressive individuals is something I take great pride in.

### MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF TEACHING

The thing I enjoy most is working with the children. They have such an interesting perspective and outlook on life and it is so refreshing. I love to see the look on their faces when they realise the progress that they are making and how proud they look when they have accomplished something they found difficult or overcome challenges. It is a great privilege to be a part of.

## PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATIONS

I would like to gain more experience working with children who have additional learning needs and build a strong skillset in supporting those with emotional and behavioural difficulties. One day I would like to specialise in working with children who are in a resourced provision or in an Additional Learning Needs School.

## IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE PROFESSION

I think there is a pressure on teachers to get all subjects and areas of learning in the curriculum covered and sometimes that means learning can feel rushed and skimmed over and the content not always relevant or meaningful. I would like more opportunities and freedom for teachers to choose topics that are meaningful for the children they teach and the locality they live in, covering learning that is relevant to them. The new Curriculum for Wales seems to be heading towards this direction which is great to see.

## FUNNIEST CLASSROOM MOMENT

Recently I taught a reception class and on the planning the teacher had written to sing '5 little peas' with the children and to draw 5 little peas on my fingertips to demonstrate during the song. Not thinking, I grabbed the first green felt I could find on the desk and drew 5 dots (one on each finger) large for the children to see. It wasn't until after the lesson when I washed my hands that I found it wouldn't

wash off. To my dismay I had used a permanent sharpie pen and was temporarily stuck with large green dots on my fingertips.

## MOST EMBARRASING CLASSROOM MOMENT

I must have had my most embarrassing moments during the live online zoom sessions during home learning. I used to host games and quizzes for my class like play your cards right, catchphrase and scavenger hunts. Some of them worked well, but a few turned out to be a flop! The thing that made it most cringeworthy was that parents had a front row seat. Sometimes they would even join in with the games!



## PASTIMES

I love going for walks along the canal and in the countryside with my pug Frank. I also love to sing and am a member of a Welsh learner's choir. I enjoy reading books and magazines and I like to spend time in my garden.

## THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING FOR EXCELL

I think the best thing about working for Excell is the people. All the account managers I have spoken to are very helpful and are great at finding me suitable work. Carol Olley is my main point of contact, and she is amazing, she is so professional, understanding and great to work for. Excell has excellent relationships with many wonderful schools and there are many opportunities for a range of types of work.



Carol Olley, Account Manager,  
Excell Supply

Read Jennifer's article on 'Top 10 Essential Items to Pack in Your Supply Bag.' - the third contribution to Excell's new, online Training Zone.

**Top 10 Essential Items to Pack in Your Supply Bag**  
by Jennifer Ashworth, primary teacher at Excell

- 1 Books**  
Bring one or two of your favourite children's story books with you. Children of all ages love having a story read to them and a new book is always welcome in the classroom. For some of the older pupils, I bring a book containing some short stories.
- 2 Pens**  
Schools all have a marking scheme unique to them and this will include what colour pens they use. Having your own pens ready just in case there aren't any to hand can be time saving and useful. In my pencil case, I always bring a red, green, purple and black biro. Some schools also use pink and green highlighters in their mark scheme so they are handy to bring too!
- 3 Post-it Notes & Paper Clips**  
For organising any work you have marked and left. It can be very helpful for the class teacher you are covering if you organise the work you have completed with the class into different piles e.g. maths, literacy, finished, not complete, etc., and provide a brief note on next steps or any children who have not quite completed the learning objectives.
- 4 Stickers and Certificates**  
Children love praise and rewards. I always follow the behaviour/reward system that the school has in place, but I find as supply it is nice to have a little stamp of your own. I like to bring some small/holographic stickers with me and I find they are always a hit with most ages in a primary school. You can also find certificate books with 'Star of the Day' available to buy online which is always appreciated by the children.

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