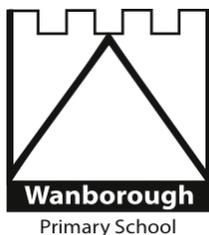


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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to focus this week's update on staffing news, classes for next year and transition arrangements. With the Government guidance for September being released yesterday, I will communicate to all stakeholders during the course of next week, the school's response and plans for September. The good news is that all years are to return!

### **Staff News**

Miss Watts will be returning to school from maternity leave before the end of the summer term. Both her and baby Lottie are very well, having experienced a lockdown maternity! We look forward to her return in both her Assistant Head and Class Teacher (from September) roles, especially in these challenging times where her experience and knowledge will be greatly utilised.

Mr Hitt who has been with us since September covering Miss Watts maternity will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. It's difficult to avoid the obvious pun, but we have all been highly impressed with the contribution Mr Hitt has made in this extraordinary school year. Mr Hitt will be our loss and Orchid Vale's gain, but he has made the right choice in taking up a full time position after such a successful and memorable first year in teaching. We wish him well and every success for the future.

Mrs Marshall will be remaining on maternity for the commencement of the Autumn term. Both her and baby Wilf are doing great. We also are happy to announce that Mrs Wride is expecting another baby – we wish her and her baby well during and after the pregnancy. Mrs Wride will be in school from September before taking her maternity leave, with Mrs Law becoming the interim SENDCo thereafter.

We also welcome to the school our newest recruit Mrs Wright who will be teaming up with Miss Watts. We were delighted to appoint somebody with her skills and experience to join the fantastic team we already have. From September, Mrs Wright will be teaching on a Thursday and Friday.

### **Classes for 2020/21**

In consideration for next year's classes I have thought long and hard about the current situation and how staffing should be deployed next year. Whilst there is a strong argument to continue with current teachers for particular year groups, my preference is for the teachers to be very confident in delivering a curriculum that they have experience and knowledge of and to have the skills and confidence to adapt the curriculum in order to meet the demands for next year. I also think normality for September will be something we will all be striving for, changing classes and classrooms is a normal school procedure and I'm hoping our transition activities and ongoing communication from staff will hopefully go some way in bringing about closure for children who have been unable to return to school.

Our plan for September is to firstly focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of the children. Teachers will plan a range of activities to make school a great, safe and happy place to return to. Pace and challenge will increase in time, and catch up will be implemented appropriately - but routines, enjoyment, friendships and relationships with adults in the class will be more important than the academics initially.



Therefore, I have every confidence that the children and their new teachers will get to know each other quickly, forming a sense of togetherness which will be so important in moving forwards.

Furthermore, prior to the children starting, we will be giving you the opportunity to give us some feedback on your child's wellbeing and your thoughts on how they have managed to access and cope with the home learning. A form will be available today on each classes One Drive which requires downloading. After downloading and completion it should be emailed to your child's current class teacher. Please could you return the form by **3.00pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** - apologies for the short timescale but I wanted to wait for the government advice before finalising classes for next year, thus giving you more context to inform your comments.

### Arrangements for 2020/21

Year	Teacher	Teaching assistant/s	Classroom
R	Mrs Law and Mrs Marshall	Mrs Armstrong	Reception area
1	Mr Day	Miss Patten and Miss Noor	Current Year 1
2	Miss Corbyn	Mrs Allnutt	Current Year 3
3	Miss Watts and Mrs Wright	Mrs Baker and Mrs Rew	Current Year 2
4	Miss Grierson	Ms Hingley	Current Year 5
5	Mrs Hayden	Mrs Pavely and Mrs Winslow	Current Year 4
6	Miss Brant	Mrs Bermingham and Mrs Hook	Current Year 6

### Transition

Transition is very important in any year but getting it right this year is of paramount importance. Current and future class teachers will be meeting at length and in depth to discuss your child. Considerations will include:

- Your child's time in class this academic year, their personalities, learning styles and progress as well as their academic, social /emotional strengths and weaknesses.
- Communicating elements of the curriculum taught in school and set during lockdown.
- Identifying expected gaps of knowledge and learning.
- Reading the information you will have provided to help understand each child's experiences during the lockdown period.
- Meeting and talking to the children before the end of the school year during their activity session.
- SEND transition will be co-ordinated by Mrs Wride in liaison with parents and teachers.

I can confirm that the sessions for those Year groups not currently in school on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July are at the following days and times:

New Reception children	Monday July 20 <sup>th</sup> 9.15am / 9.45am or 10.15am
New Reception children	Tuesday July 21 <sup>st</sup> 9.15am / 9.45am or 10.15am
Current Year 2	Monday July 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.45am - 12.15pm
Current Year 3	Monday July 20 <sup>th</sup> 12.45pm - 2.15pm
Current Year 4	Tuesday July 21 <sup>st</sup> 10.45am - 12.15pm
Current Year 5	Tuesday July 21 <sup>st</sup> 12.45pm - 2.15pm

Further details will be sent next week to Parents of our new Reception children and Years 2-5.

Finally, children in Reception and Year 1 that are currently in school will have opportunities to visit their new classroom and meet Mr Day and Miss Corbyn. All teachers will be sending video messages to their current and new children as we are aware that some children will not be able to attend or visit school before September.

That's probably enough information for now, have a lovely weekend!

Andy Drury

