



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Dear Parents & Carers

Just a very brief update from me this Friday – It has been a very busy week!

After sending a letter out a couple of days ago about some changes which we are having to make due to staffing, I have been made aware that there are a few concerns amongst parents and carers about these changes, particularly in Year 1. I think that this is due to the fact that some of our families feel that the newly appointed staff won't know our children very well and it will take time for some of our youngest pupils to form relationships with these new people.

I completely understand these concerns, however I did want to explain the rationale for why we are having to make these changes.

Unfortunately, due to both self-isolating after covering sessions in Year 3 last week, as well as having to undergo an operation in a few weeks, Mrs Whitehouse will not be back in school now until after Christmas. At the moment in her self-isolation, Mrs Whitehouse is working at home, assisting with home learning, as well as doing work on our brand new curriculum and updating some of our policies. However, from October 19th, Mrs Whitehouse will be out of action for a little while, as she must fully rest and recuperate after her operation. I know that I can speak on behalf of our whole school community when I say how much we will miss her during the time that she is away this term, and how we all wish her a speedy recovery! We can't wait to see your smiling face again in person after Christmas Mrs Whitehouse!

Due to Mrs Whitehouse's absence, this obviously means that we have a lot less leadership capacity to assist with strategic priorities, to manage the day to day running of the school and obviously to be reactive to anything relating to COVID-19. Whilst I am aware that it isn't ideal to have to take key members of staff out of class for additional time when our pupils have only returned to school 4 weeks ago, unfortunately as Head Teacher I will now need support from my Assistant Head and team of other senior leaders in order to lead the school effectively, so these changes to staffing and teaching timetables really are vital.

We have been lucky enough to appoint Mrs Louise Ling to lead in Mrs Fields' Year 1 class on Tuesdays and Thursdays who did some cover work for us last academic year, alongside a new teaching assistant called Mrs Charlotte Gilham-Grant who will be supporting our children through leading catch up interventions amongst many other things. Then in Year 3 we have secured a teacher called Mrs Bethan Kakande who will lead in Mrs McNally's class every Monday.

Until next week everyone...

Have a wonderful, safe weekend in your households.

Best wishes

Mr Adams

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