

Burnside News

*Be Safe *Be Smart *Be Kind

Burnside Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

DATE 29th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't tell you how busy we have been in school this week and as such, I have a lot of information to share with you, but first I would like to thank my wonderful team. As we approach the end of the academic year we are more exhausted than ever. 2020 -21 has pushed us harder than ever before and presented challenges that we could never have envisaged in our wildest dreams.

We were forced to close again, remaining open for our key worker children and the vulnerable children in our community.

We learned to teach in a completely different way – **ZOOM and the internet!!** We adopted new approaches to keep in touch and you all supported us and kept our morale high with emails of encouragement.

Our energy reserves are low but we want the children to have the best experiences in the remaining 3 weeks. We have so much planned and I would like to share these plans and some of our plans for September with you now.

Transition

Next week the children will spend the week with their new class teacher in their new classrooms. The theme of the week is sports and as such the children need to wear their PE kit all week. Please be mindful this isn't an opportunity to wear expensive sports brands or beach type clothing. Children should stick to PE uniform type clothing as I appreciate you may have only one school PE kit.

During transition week children will need to arrive at school at the same time and same place as they currently do. Dismissal will be exactly the same too, with the children being dismissed at the same time and place as they currently are. Their new teachers will change around and come to them.

PLEASE NOTE children in our Nursery classes who are going into Reception will receive email correspondence regarding transition from Mrs Shaw today.

The movement of classes are shown in the table below;

Current Teacher	New Teacher
Miss Turnbull RT	Miss Duffy until Mrs McCoy returns from maternity 1M
Miss Lloyd RL	Mrs Ray 1R
Mrs Ray 1R	Miss Turnbull 2T
Miss Bartlett 1B	Mrs Akram 2A
Mrs Akram 2A	Miss Lloyd 3L
Mrs Walker 2W	Mr Tincombe 3T
Mrs Stewart 3S	Mrs Willis / Mrs McGarry 4MW
Miss Duffy (Mrs McCoy) 3M	Miss Garrett 4G
Mrs McGarry / Mrs Willis 4MW	Miss Dodds 5D
Miss Garrett 4G	Mrs Stewart 5S
Mr Tincombe 5T	Mrs Burleigh / Mrs Mawhinney 6BM
Mrs Burleigh / Mrs McKenzie 5BM	Miss Croft 6C

As you can see some members of staff have moved the year groups they teach. These decisions are made very carefully and in consultation with the staff. Occasionally, parents make predictions based on the current staffing structure as to whom their child's next teacher maybe. This can sometimes cause disappointment and parents contact me. However, this staffing structure will not be changed as some staff have already completed relevant training for the year group they will be teaching.

New Staff and Specialist Teaching

Miss Dodds (featured above in Year 5) has been working in school to support our Burnside Bounce Back. She has done an amazing job and I am delighted to inform you that following a successful interview she will be a full time member of the team next year.

Miss Smith, some of you may know her as she is currently the Cramlington and Seaton Valley school Games Organiser and the Cramlington School Sports Partnership Coordinator. Miss Smith will be joining the team to strengthen our PE Curriculum. She will be teaching the children from Year 2 to Year 6 PE once each week.

Mrs Tweddle is our new specialist Arts teacher and will be teaching art to the children from Year 3 to Year 6.

Mrs Walker will be once again teaching specialist music lessons from January 2022, 1 day per week.

Burnside Bounce Back New Update

As you may know, Miss Dodds has been supporting pupils catch up where needed this term, supported by extra teaching assistant hours in EYFS and Key Stage 1. To support our Key Stage 2 pupils we will be launching an amazing reading programme called READING PLUS. We will launch this in September and have licences to enable pupils to use the system in school as well as at home.

The outdoor learning spaces are progressing well and we hope to have everything ready for September. More information about this to come soon!

You may recall I wrote some time ago describing the things we had assessed the children had missed out on during the pandemic. Teaching children the curriculum is what we do well, but ensuring we make up for the deficit which has been created in terms of Friendship, Opportunity and Freedom has required us to be creative. We feel an overnight **CAMPING ADVENTURE** at school for children in the current Year 4 and 5 will tick this box. The teachers will give more details to their classes next week and we will be providing a letter with additional details. We aim to keep the cost down using some of the catch up money we have remaining.