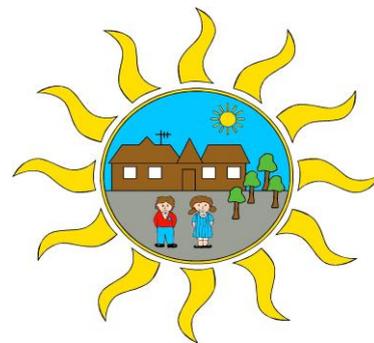


STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher
Mrs Sally Dreckmann

Friday 16th March 2018

Update on staffing and wrap around care

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing

I wanted to update you on some changes that will be taking place, some starting after the Easter break. You will know from the Worth Less campaign letters we send home that the financial situation for schools is getting worse each year. In particular, small schools are being affected as we move towards a funding formula where every school gets the same amount per pupil and a smaller lump sum. This has meant that for 2018-19, our school budget will be reduced by a very significant amount of money meaning cuts have to be made.

Over the last few months, the Senior Leadership Team have been looking at how we can continue to run our school without compromising the quality of education. My Governing Body and I feel it is imperative that we remain as a four class school because of the large cohort sizes that are coming through from the bottom end of the school. We have therefore had to make the very difficult decision that we are going to have to reduce our teaching assistant hours, as many other schools in the area have already done or will soon do.

Miss Whitaker has been with us as a TA in Owls since last September and it was always her intention to leave by July as she has a place to train as a teacher from this September. Unfortunately, I have had to end her employment with us from the end of this term. Happily, she has already secured a new job to take her up to the start of her teacher training. I am collecting for a leaving gift and if anyone wishes to contribute, please send into school by next Friday, 23rd March.

This year, Mrs Rhodes has also been working as a non class based TA, supporting eligible pupils through a specific funding stream. This source of funding has been more than halved for the coming financial year and so her post will also come to an end at the end of this term. This same funding has allowed us to employ Mrs Helas for an additional two days a week this year, which will now end, so from April she will go back to working just Thursday and Friday in Owls class. Finally, Miss Roberts is reducing from two to one and a half days a week and I will be taking back some of the SENDCO work.

We are currently working on a timetable to reallocate the remaining TA hours, initially just for the summer term. We will be keeping full time TA cover in Rabbits and as close to full time as we can in



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Owls. The two KS2 classes are smaller (16 and 12 pupils) and so can cope this term with reduced TA support.

Breakfast and After School Club

Due to the loss of her two days in school, Mrs Rhodes has understandably also decided to give up her four hours a week in After School Club. Again, she has happily found a new job for after Easter and so will be leaving us completely. If you would like to contribute to her leaving gift, please send your donation into school by Friday 23rd March. Miss Whitaker has also resigned from Breakfast and After School Club as she can't fit these hours in with her new job.

With both Miss Whitaker and Mrs Rhodes gone, we have had to make some decisions regarding our wrap around care. We know many of you rely on it as your childcare and so we will not be stopping it, but there will be some changes. The teachers, Mrs Brett and I will be running after school care between us and supporting Mr Stringer to run breakfast club in the morning.

Historically it has been very difficult to recruit staff for wrap around care. Also, Mrs Brett is spending a great deal of time on the administrative side of things. For these reasons, we have decided that from September, we will be outsourcing our wrap around care to a local company called Active8. They will run the same hours at the same price but all bookings and payments will be made online via them and we will no longer be involved in any aspect of wrap around care. They will be communicating with parents early in the summer term to give you all time to prepare for them taking over in September.

Next academic year

As always, I am already fielding questions about what is happening next year. We will be notified as to how many Reception children we will be taking in September on 16th April. We will then begin planning our school and staffing structure for the 2018-19 academic year and hope to be able to share this with you by the May half term.

I hope this letter clarifies the coming changes for you. Although we are (alongside all other small schools) suffering with the financial cuts, the changes we are making secure our financial viability for the coming year. We are in a strong position in that we hold a recent, 'Good' OFSTED judgement and our roll is growing as our small cohorts leave the top end of the school and we continue to have healthy intakes in Reception, with children joining us in other year groups too. We have a strong and supportive school community and so it is business as usual – onwards and upwards!

Yours sincerely



Sally Dreckmann