

Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

It was a pleasure last week to welcome back your sons and daughters after the summer break. They all seem well-rested and are clearly full of energy to embark on the fresh challenges and adventures that the coming academic year will bring. I would also like to extend an extra warm welcome to the children and families who have started with us in Reception class.

This year, at Goosewell, we will focus on embedding all of the exciting changes that were introduced in the Spring and Summer term of last academic year. All of the classes have made ambitious starts with their new topics and, in my visits to the classrooms, it is clear that the children are excited and engaged in the work they are doing. If you wanted a reminder of the topics the children are focusing on, or if you are interested in the topics in other year groups, Knowledge Organisers (information the children will focus on this half-term) can be found under the parent section of the school's website.

This week we have also welcomed parents in for their first meeting with the class teacher. This has been a chance for parents to see the children's classroom, meet the teacher and understand what the expectations of the year will be. Please remember, if at any point, you have a question about your child do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher. Each year group is also led this year by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and should you have questions for them about anything related to the year group or the wider school, please feel free to email a question and they will happily get back in touch with you or arrange a meeting if needed:

Miss Eva Hanlon – EYFS Lead. ehanlon@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Miss Grace Baldwin – Year 1 Lead. gbaldwin@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Mrs Britta Nicholls – Year 2 Lead. bnicholls@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Miss Louise Merriman – Year 3 Lead. lmerriman@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Mr Marc Leader – Year 4 Lead. mleader@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Mrs Laura Clarke – Year 5 Lead. lclarke@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Miss Laura Warren – Year 6 Lead. lwarren@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Mrs Clare Phillips – Hub Lead. cphillips@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

I am also pleased to advise that the leadership structure of the school is broken down into three separate phases and are led as set out below:

Phase Leader	Year Group Leaders	
KS1 & EYFS Mrs Britta Nicholls	EYFS	Miss Eva Hanlon
	Year 1	Miss Grace Baldwin
	Year 2	Mrs Britta Nicholls
LKS2 Mr Marc Leader	Year 3	Miss Louise Merriman
	Year 4	Mr Marc Leader
UKS2 Miss Laura Warren	Year 5	Mrs Laura Clarke
	Year 6	Miss Laura Warren

My door is always open to parents and should you wish to meet with me then please contact me by emailing head@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk or telephoning the school. In my absence Mrs Nicholls and Miss Warren are always available in their role as Deputy Headteachers as is Mr Leader as Assistant Headteacher.

Last academic year, I was pleased to report a 15% increase in the number of Year 6 children leaving Goosewell Academy having met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths ensuring more children were fully prepared for their next stage of their education. However, we must be clear that there is still work to be done and I am confident that this year we will see even more children achieve the expected standards while maintaining the positive ethos that Goosewell is known for. Therefore, as an improving school, our key priorities will continue to focus on raising standards in Reading, Writing and Maths while ensuring the children receive a knowledge and experience rich wider curriculum.

To help us understand if the changes we have implemented are having impact and to understand if the children are enjoying the work they are doing through an appropriate level of challenge, subject leaders, will throughout the year, conference the children to get their important viewpoint. It is also important that we listen to the views of parents and to help make this happen I would like to establish the Parent Forum. Ideally, this would be made up of one or two parent representatives of each class who would meet with myself once a term to informally discuss, over coffee or tea, any developments or concerns about the class or school with the aim of providing transparency about the direction of travel of the school. The date of the first Parent Forum will be Wednesday 30th October 9.00am – 10.30am. If you are interested in representing your child's class, I would be very grateful if you could send a letter to the school office outlining your interest in this position.

As always, you will find details of forthcoming events on the weekly newsletter and school calendar. I would also like to bring special attention to the first of two Parents' evenings of this year on the Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th of October. This year, appointments will take place after school and information on how to book your slot, using our new website, will follow shortly.

The autumn term is busy and purposeful, and I have no doubt that your children will settle well into their new routines. Personally, I am very excited to begin my first full year at Goosewell Academy and look forward to spending more time getting to know the children and the families of Goosewell.

With best wishes for a happy and successful term

James Gentile

Headteacher



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