



BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs Kate Coates

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Dear Parents and Carers of children attending Burwell Village College Primary School.

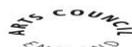
The IEB has had a number of questions raised by a group of parents and we thought it would be best to provide answers to all parents

BVCP Staffing

The focus of the IEB and the school Leadership Team is to ensure that all children have access to high quality teaching, develop systems so that leaders at all levels are rigorous in their monitoring and evaluation of the school's progress, and ensure that assessment for learning is embedded so that it is impacting positively upon teaching as well as on learning outcomes. To this end any actions undertaken have been done so in order to secure improvement against these priorities and to support all pupils at the school, including decisions made with regards to staffing.

No one on the IEB is in a position to share or discuss personal information relating to teachers experience, qualifications or the nature of their contracts, or indeed why they choose to leave – this would be a breach of both confidentiality and in contravention of Data Protection Regulations. I can confirm however that no members of staff have been dismissed and that Parents' Evening consultations have been postponed and not cancelled as a result of staff illness.

I can also confirm that the school is staffed for next term, and that Mrs Coates has managed to secure some very experienced teachers, with excellent credentials, to join the team going forward. These teachers, together with all of the remaining staff, are committed to making Burwell Village Primary School the best it can be, and to working in partnership with parents to this end.



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Burwell Village College Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Child safety, mental health and wellbeing, staff ratios and class sizes

With respect to Infant class sizes there are currently 63 children in Early Years with three fully qualified teachers (equating to 21 pupils to 1 teacher). This ratio of teachers to pupils will remain the same from January and going forward. In KS1 there are 129 children with 5 teachers, plus an additional part time teacher who has been supporting them (equating to 26 pupils to 1 teacher plus some extra). This structure will also be maintained going forward, and as such we sit well within the statutory government guidelines for these class sizes.

The lunchtime ratios, both inside and out, are appropriate for the number of pupils and the school has more than the required First Aid Trained Staff. A Safeguarding Review was carried out at the school last year by the Local Authority Senior Adviser for Leadership and standards were found to be highly effective. The IEB also reviews first aid logs monthly looking for patterns and trends across individuals, classes and inclusion groups.

Governing body and Communication

The Local Authority has asked the Interim Executive Board to remain in place until the end of this academic year, to oversee the appointment of a new Headteacher and to assist them over their first few months in school. The Local Authority want the school to be in a stable position and close to achieving a Good judgement from Ofsted before the IEB stands down. It is our hope that we will be in a position to introduce 'shadow governors' from the Half Term of the Summer Term so that a full Governing Body can be in place from September 2020 when the IEB will withdraw.

The IEB are focused on school improvement and are not going to expend time and energy considering academisation. This will be for the future Head and governors to pursue if they wish.

General communications will be in the form of termly newsletters and parent forums, as well as questionnaires/surveys on different topics in line with other Governing Bodies and IEBs. Parents wishing to discuss personal concerns should first raise these with the Headteacher, but can also liaise with the Clerk to the IEB who will organise for them to meet with the IEB's Parent Champion. The next parent forum is on December 11th from 3.30 to 4.30pm in the Small Hall.

SENCO Provision - handover notes

I can confirm that a full handover for SEND was completed before the end of July 2019 between class teachers. The school now has a new SENDCO, who has worked hard to ensure arrangements are compliant with the SEND Code of Practice, and who is liaising regularly with all multi-agency providers and SEND Services to strengthen support for this group of pupils across the school.

Clubs and activities

After discussion with school staff it appears that there are in fact many clubs running, although I accept that this is not evident on the school's website (something we will remedy as soon as possible). It is true that French Club will discontinue after Christmas however the Nurture Club will continue to run, albeit slightly differently in the light of a review against pupil need. There are also a great many activities for children to participate in at lunchtime, and I note a plethora of other trips, visits and experiences have been enjoyed by pupils across this term to date.

In relation to the Achievement Cup it transpires that in fact many parents have complained about this for some time as the opportunity to win (taking into consideration the rules surrounding it) are extremely limiting. New arrangements have been put in place to re-establish the awarding of

the cup in a fairer manner, where children can see the possibility of winning something worth striving for.

It appears that the PTA school discos were cancelled prior to Mrs Coate's arrival at the school as a result of repeated poor behaviour and children not being sufficiently supervised. I understand that during the last one property was damaged and the event had to be brought to a close by the school Site Manager. I also understand that during the Young Voices trip to the 02 staff aired concerns around safety and organisation, which is why they have taken the decision not to attend in future.

The vision - the plan for the school going forward

A brief outline of the School Development Plan is available on the school website, along with a Pupil Premium Strategy and Sports Strategy Document, and updated information relating to Special Educational Needs. Further information will be given at the Parent Forum on the 11th December.

Parent Liaison

All letters and emailed correspondence has been dealt with within stipulated guidelines and timeframes. If parents have a concern they should consult with the class teacher in the first instance. If they remain dissatisfied they should then make an appointment to discuss it with the Senior Leadership Team via the school office. If parents remain concerned that their questions/queries are still unanswered they can then avail themselves of the School's Complaint's Procedure as detailed on the school's website.

Yours faithfully,



Diane Stygal

Chair of the Interim Executive Board