

11th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

CLASSES and OPERATIONS 2022-23

I am writing to tell you about planned changes for staff and operations next year – I apologise that this has taken longer than usual. Please be assured that all decisions, as ever, have been made carefully and in the best interests of the children.

STAFFING NEWS

I am very happy to tell you (and you may well have already noticed) that Mrs Morton is expecting her first baby in November (congratulations Mr and Mrs Morton!) and all being well, will be going on maternity leave at October half term.

Mr Simpson recently applied for a teaching position at Yetminster School and last Thursday 7th July, he was offered and accepted the post. It has been agreed that Mr Simpson will remain at St Mary's for the early part of the Autumn term to give the school the time to restructure its leadership and SENCO role as well as appoint a replacement teacher in Year 3/4. We wish Mr Simpson all the best in his new job.

YEAR 5 and 6

Mrs Morton will be teaching in Year 5 and 6 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Newton, on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Newton is an experienced Year 6 teacher (currently teaching in Year 6 at Yetminster School on Mondays to Wednesdays) and has taught booster and catch up groups in Maths and English in Year 6 over the years at St Mary's. Mrs Morton obviously knows the children very well and it is fantastic that she is on hand to work with Mrs Newton during the first half of term to share her knowledge of the pupils.

From October half term, Mrs Newton will take over full time until Mrs Morton finishes her maternity leave the following August. I will also be supporting the teaching in Year 5 and 6 as I have done over many years, particularly in the run up to SATs with Year 6.

We will also be supporting a trainee teacher, Miss Dunn, in Year 5/6 across the Autumn and Spring terms to add adult capacity. Miss Dunn is already working as a Teaching Assistant at St Gilda's Primary School in Yeovil so I'm sure she will hit the ground running.

Next year's Year 5 and 6 will remain in their current classroom as the space is much bigger but renamed as 'Silverlake'. We will however utilise the 'new' classroom, for breakout groups as required on a daily basis.

YEAR 3 and 4

Mr Simpson will continue to teach Year 3 and 4 in his current classroom for the early part of the Autumn term. A new teacher will be appointed as his replacement soon into the new term. Again, we will utilise the 'new' classroom for breakout groups as required.

YEAR 1 and 2

Miss Stuckey will continue to teach in Year 1 and 2 in her current classroom on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Morton will teach on Thursdays and Fridays until half term when she goes on maternity leave. At this point, Miss Stuckey will increase her working pattern to four days and Miss Moriarty (formerly our Year 3 teacher) will teach on the fifth day.

Headteacher: Miss Emma Grunnill **Admin officer:** Mrs Karen Britton Mill Lane, Bradford Abbas, Sherborne, Dorset DT96RH

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The roots to grow, the wings to fly

EYFS and YEAR 1

Miss Langdon will continue to teach in EYFS/Year 1 in her current classroom.

Miss Parker will continue in her role of Sports Apprentice. Mrs Gaylard will continue in her role school ELSA.

Obviously even the best-laid plans require degrees of flexibility as staffing and school needs can change at any point so please bear this in mind.

We will confirm details of which class your child is in very shortly by email. We are in the process of organising transition sessions within the school day for the children to visit their new classes.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please continue to use the one-way system as now. It works very well and avoids congestion and bottlenecks.

Year 3 and 4 parents will need to pick up from the **vegetable garden** (up the steps) or the **gravel area** from September. **Please do not block the path by waiting on it or the field, as it gets very muddy.**

Year 5 and 6 parents will continue to collect from the **top playground**. If you wish your children in Year 5 and 6 to walk home, you must let us know in writing beforehand please.

EYFS/1/2 parents will continue to wait at the **EYFS gate**. **Please walk on the path as you take your children home and not the field as mud transfers onto the path, which is a slip hazard.**

Please do not bring children to the office gate to be let in at morning drop off unless the main gates are locked and it is after registration has started. This should be an exception rather than the norm.

SCHOOL DAY

As you are aware, school will start (register) at **8.45 am** in September so alarms will need to be set earlier! **Pupils need to be in class for the register at 8.45 as lessons commence shortly after.** The main gate and doors will open at **8.35am**. This is different for all of us so we appreciate there may be teething problems on both sides but hope we can all make it work as quickly as possible.

Please try not to be late as it is disruptive for the children and teaching staff to have children coming into class when lessons are underway.

School will finish at **3.15pm** and children should be collected promptly. Any clubs will finish at **4.15** and again, children should be collected promptly.

Breakfast club will continue as normal. At the moment, there is no planned price change as the cost is per session however any decisions regarding this will be made by SAST.

ATTENDANCE

We understand that there are many valid reasons why pupils may be absent and for most children, attendance is very good. However, we will be monitoring attendance more closely in the new year, as life is now back to 'normal', for those pupils whose attendance could be better. The expected attendance percentage for pupils is 96%. Holidays in term time are never authorised unless under exceptional circumstances. Children who take holiday in term time are rarely able to cover the learning they have missed due to gaps in teaching and the demands of the curriculum.

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We are seeing a rise in children being collected early from school for non-medical reasons or reasons not relating to the pupil. This is disruptive for learning and for office staff; please try to avoid unless absolutely necessary.

SUN SAFETY

We have an eye on the very hot weather predicted for the next two weeks and will be making sensible decisions regarding outside activities. Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied before they come to school and that they bring a named sunhat and a water bottle to school. Thank you.

The trip to Longleat will be going ahead with regular planned periods of shelter from the sun but please do ensure again that your children have sunscreen applied before school, hats and water bottles.

COVID

The message regarding Covid at the moment is that parents need to check the national guidance before making the decision whether to send their children into school or not. The current advice is that if your child has a temperature they should remain at home. Obviously if they are not well enough to be at school, they should clearly remain at home to get better (as with any illness).

I wish you all a very happy summer and look forward to working with you all again in September.

Kind regards

E.A. Grunnill

Miss Grunnill
Head



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