

Cupernham Infant School

Together we care, we learn and we enjoy success

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells



Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Staffing structure and staffing news.

I hope you are well and keeping safe. It's that time of year where we say goodbye to members of staff and prepare for further change in preparing for September. I would like to share with you various staffing updates for the new academic year. We have a number of staff who are leaving us and many returning.

Firstly, I would like to say a special thank you and goodbye to Miss Cheryl Bailey (Sparrows), Mrs Hutchins (Woodpeckers) and Miss Mole (Woodpeckers). All three teachers have supported the school through various maternity covers over the past year and have ensured that the children continued to receive an outstanding learning experience. Mrs Platt, Mrs Hellings and Miss Lowden will be returning to school from their maternity leave.

I would also like to say a thank you and goodbye to Mrs Richards who has supported many children in her role as an LSA and HLTA. I wish her well and every success in her new role as a learning support teacher in a secondary school.

Miss Cooper joined us nearly 2 years ago as an LSA in Kingfishers and then decided to train to become a teacher. She has just completed her School's Direct teaching placement with us and takes up her first teaching position as an NQT at a school in Eastleigh. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We also say thank you and goodbye to the amazing Mrs Benfield. She has worked at Cupernham Infant School for many years as a speech and language support assistant, a dinner lady and more recently volunteering her time every Thursday, listening to children read in Yr. 1. We will miss her very much. In particular, I'm going to miss her lovely homemade cakes she brought in every Thursday for the staff.

Mrs Simons has been an LSA here with us for nearly 20 years and will be retiring at the end of this term. We are going to miss her very much and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her passion, dedication and support she has given to the school and especially to the children at Cupernham Infant School. We will all miss her very much and would like to wish her all the best for the future.

Finally, for those parents who do not know, Miss Freeman is expecting a baby and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Freeman all the very best as she begins her maternity leave over the summer; we look forward to meeting her baby soon.

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As we wait for further guidance regarding what schools will look like in September, I will communicate this with you at a later date. In the meantime, please be rest assured that the staff at Cupernham Infant School will do their very best in making sure the transition back to school is as smooth as it can possibly be.

We are now able to share with you all the teaching arrangements for September 2020. Within the email you have received, we have attached another letter indicating who your child's teacher will be in September and which class they are in. Please visit the video page of our website to view their welcome messages to the children. You will notice that many teachers will be moving up with the children to further support their transition, emotional and learning needs.

Staffing Structure for September 2020			
Class	Year Group	Teacher	Learning Support Assistant
Wrens	Yr. R	Mrs Rebecca Hellings (M-W & Miss Tess Lowden (Th-F)	Mrs Wendy Kibbey
Penguins	Yr. R	Mrs Rachel Platt (EYFS Leader)	Mrs Hayley Brown & Mrs Janie Lake
Sparrow	Yr. R	Miss Bronte Bailey	Mrs Steph Codling
Year 1			
Hummingbirds	Yr. 1	Mrs Katy Parry (M-W) & Mrs Emma Birkinshaw (Th-F)	Mr Joss Whalvin
Robin	Yr. 1	Miss Molly Vinney	Mrs Clair Kinally
		Mrs Jen Turski (DHT) will be overseeing the Yr. 1 leader role while Miss Freeman is on her maternity leave.	
Woodpeckers	Yr. 1 / 2	Miss Alice Kirby (Yr. 2 Leader) (M-Th) Mrs Alison McFadden (Fr)	Mrs Jackie Morgan (M-Th) Mrs Lucy Blofield (F)
Kingfishers	Yr. 2	Miss Kayley Appleby	Mrs Tina Watkinson
Nightingales	Yr. 2	Mr Robbie Guy	Mrs Cathy Ferris
Teaching Assistants			
Higher Level Teaching Assistants	Working across the school	Mrs Lucy Blofield (M-F) Ms Sharon Whitfield (M, T, Th, Fr)	
FFT Interventions	Working across the school	Mrs Gemma Stevenson-White (M-F afternoons)	

Mixed Yr. 1 and 2 Class - Woodpeckers

This year we are having to create a mixed Yr. 1 and 2 class. We have taken the decision to do this as our current Yr. R and Yr. 1 numbers have been particularly lower than previous years, with Yr. R at 69/90 and Yr. 1 at 76/90. Therefore, from a financial point of view, we are unable to keep our current three form class structure, for the next academic year at least, in KS1. This mixed Yr. 1 and 2 class will be taught and led by our year leader Miss Kirby.

Although mixed classes are very common across many school, we have included some frequently asked questions about this topic to help answer queries you may have about this.

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Frequently asked questions:

- **What is a mixed age year group class?**

Mixed age teaching is when two or more year groups are combined to create one class of children. This is especially where the pupil intake numbers are less than the usual class size of 30.

- **Why are we having a mixed year group class?**

We have had a decrease in the number of children on roll this year in Key Stage One and as a result brings with it various financial implications.

- **How will two year groups be taught alongside each other in one classroom?**

All children are individuals and develop at different rates. Children will be taught to their individual academic needs and not simply to their age/ year group. The teachers at Cupernham Infant School are skilled at teaching classes which include children working on curriculum content which is lively, engaging and purposeful for all learning needs. Teachers will choose work appropriate to the level a child is working at, ensuring that all needs are catered for. To ensure all children access the best learning experience for their year group there may be times when the children are taught in smaller groups in order to support this.

- **Will my child be held back if he/she is placed in a single or split year group?**

We have carefully selected the children who are in each of the Key Stage One classes to ensure they are with friends and peers that they work well with. We will ensure the learning is appropriate and personalised for each individual child and that they cover all parts of the National Curriculum which are relevant to the year group they are in and ensure that objectives which have not been taught within school during lockdown are also met. Work will continue to be targeted and differentiated to your child's individual needs.

- **How are decisions taken about which children should be allocated to which class?**

We have worked together to place the Yr. One and Yr. Two children in the Key Stage One classes, taking friendships and learning styles into close consideration.

- **How will we ensure that Yr. 1 and 2 children cope with transition back into a formal classroom environment?**

We continue to enhance our transition activities and a curriculum that ensures the children are supported both emotionally and academically. We continue to ensure we meet the needs of each individual child and that the transition back to a formal classroom environment is smooth.

- **How will we ensure learning is not repeated this academic year and next?**

We have planned new exciting and engaging topics for all of our Key Stage One classes which meet the National Curriculum learning objectives for both Yr. One and Yr. Two. We will ensure the learning is new and inspiring for all of the children in the Key Stage One classes and no topic will be repeated.

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- **Will my child miss any opportunities by being in a single or mixed year class?**

The engaging topics we have planned for our Key Stage One classes will allow for visitors to come in and support learning. Due to the current Coronavirus situation we are unable to arrange any off-site school trips for any year group. We will ensure that we find further learning opportunities to enhance our exciting Key Stage One curriculum provision. The teachers at Cupernham Infant School will ensure that all children in Key Stage One receive a differentiated curriculum and a wide range of varied opportunities that enhance their learning and ensure they are happy and confident children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again, for your continued support through these challenging times. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We wish everyone the very best of luck for their exciting next steps and thank them for their contribution to Cupernham Infant School

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wells', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr. Duncan Wells, Headteacher.