

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy & Nursery

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Head of School: Mr Matthew Dodson



11th June 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Firstly, I would just like to welcome everyone back. It has been great to see all the fantastic learning taking place across the classes this week. The children continue to amaze us with their attitude to learning and are credit to you all.

Over the next few months, we have some exciting changes and opportunities arising. Our first great news is we are hoping to have the swimming pool open by September! This has been long awaited and we understand how important it is for our community. Over the next few weeks remedial repairs to the roof will begin. We cannot wait to have it back in use, so the children can continue to access this fabulous facility.

The pond area is starting to take shape and the Penguins have been busy, creating even more opportunities for outdoor learning. The forest school area is 'growing' and the team will be enabling all children to have greater access to this next year and develop their forest school skills.

Since Mr Wood left, I have been exploring lots of exciting opportunities to develop the school further and Clare Peat has now begun to support myself with this. We have also started to make links with the other primaries within QEGSMAT to ensure a more collaborative approach which will enable us to constantly improve the learning experiences for your children. Miss Hall has already been working with Castle View Primary and has lots of exciting new ideas she is looking to introduce over the coming months. As a small school we are always having to think of the best ways to group our children and classes, to ensure the best outcomes and experiences for all. Following discussions with QEGSMAT and the Governors, we have decided to move to 3 classes from September 2021. This is the result of the fall in pupil numbers nationally and as our numbers of children in each year group differ greatly. This move will make sure that pupil numbers are effectively shared between the three classes, ensuring all children continue to receive the highest level of learning and support.

To support other schools Mrs Cooper has been asked, by the Trust, to take up a new challenge and use her expertise across the Trust and will be joining St John's CofE Primary School, who recently became part of QEGSMAT.

Mrs Cooper will remain with us until the end of the year and will continue teaching the Year Two's and Year Three's alongside Mr Dodson during this period. I am sure you will join us in thanking Mrs Cooper for her valuable contributions in making Waterhouses such a special place and for all her efforts during her time here. We wish her well for the future and know she will be an amazing asset to St John's. It is great to know she is not far away and will be still working within the team.

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The teaching team from next year will be:

- Class 1: Nursery, Reception and Year One class
Mrs Hulme, Miss Hall, Mrs Bradbury & Mrs Derbyshire
- Class 2: Year Two and Year Three class
Mr Dodson & Mr Walker
- Class 3: Year Four, Five and Six class
Mrs Lafford & Mrs Matthews

Over the next few weeks, the Class 1 team will be working with the other early years teams within the Trust to plan the implementation of the new Early Years curriculum which is due to be in place for September. We will keep you posted on the changes and what we are putting in place to make it as exciting and relevant as possible for every child.

It has been a challenging year for everyone, following all the disruption caused by COVID-19, so we want to ensure our children have the best start to their next year. So, we are introducing 'Move Up - Stay Up' on the week commencing 5th July 2021. This means all children will move up to their new classes and stay there for the remainder of the academic year, enabling your children to become more familiar with the new class structures and teachers. We feel this is vital and will allow us to facilitate more transition activities, so all children feel confident and ready for the new school year. Needless to say, for the current Year 6's we have lots of end of year transition and fun planned for them too.

If you have any queries with regards to this letter, you are welcome to email myself at headteacher@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the office on 01538 308356 where I will, of course, be happy to respond to any queries you may have.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to exciting times ahead.

Yours faithfully



Mr Matthew Dodson
Head of School