



Bentham Community
Primary School

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Dear Parents

10th November 2017

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of some staffing changes in school that will come into effect from 1st January 2018. Due to a number of factors, a consultation has taken place in school surrounding staffing and, in particular, the support staff (teaching assistants) that we have in school. Over the past 12 months the children in school that require additional support has changed significantly and as a result of this we have had to undertake a restructuring process. As a result of this process, Mrs Gowan Sedgwick and Caroline have both chosen to take voluntary redundancy from their roles. Both Mrs Sedgwick and Caroline are very experienced Teaching Assistants who have worked in our school for a significant number of years, supporting many children. Caroline has supported our very youngest children settling them into Nursery, and has also developed everyone's ability to speak a little French! Caroline has also cared for the children at lunchtimes and wiped many a table and instigated many playground games. Mrs Sedgwick has worked across all classes and is well known for her first aid skills in school together with her expertise at supporting children with reading. I am sure you will all agree that the work that both Caroline and Mrs Sedgwick have done over many, many years has been invaluable and that they will be greatly missed. As a school, we wish them both well with whatever the future holds for them both.

In addition to the above, Miss Melanie Harrison (Teaching Assistant, not MRS Harrison - Teacher!) has also decided to 'move on to pastures new'. Miss Harrison has also been at our school for a number of years and has supported many children with varying special educational needs. Recently Miss Harrison has been on residential visits, enabling children to experience nights away from home. Miss Harrison has also been one of our midday supervisors and helped develop the games available to children outside at lunchtime. We wish Miss Harrison all the best for the future.

As a result of the restructuring process and the changes in staffing, there will be some changes to the adults in classrooms from January. This will include both general 'in class' support for all children and specific one to one support for children with special educational needs. I will be talking to individual parents over the next week or so in relation to these changes. Further, a revised staffing list of adults will be sent home to parents in due course, confirming arrangements for the new calendar year.

Although there was a need to reduce the number of teaching assistants in school, the above departures do leave some small vacancies. Therefore, we will be advertising for some midday supervisors and Teaching Assistants in the very near future. All roles are part time and details of the vacant positions will be shared with parents and advertised on the NYCC jobs website very soon.

As always, children's education is at the front of our minds and we will ensure that any changes will have minimal impact on children's learning and progress. If you have any concerns about any of the above then please do come and speak to me.

Mrs C Pearson
Head Teacher



