



Friday 2nd July, 2021

Dear School Family,

I wanted to share this year's staffing update with you before we have our transition mornings. We have some exciting changes and developments ahead. There's been a lot going on this year, but at Keyham Barton we feel it is as important to develop the staff as well as the children and with this in mind we have several staff who will be progressing in their careers because the Keyham team have done such a good job with this!

Our fabulous Miss Fenlon has just completed her Aspiring Heads qualification and will be moving on to Holy Cross. She has been a committed member of staff for many years at Keyham and we will miss her calming presence but wish her every success in her new venture!

Our marvellous Mrs McCoy has done such an incredible job as our EYFS teacher and SENDCo, she has been asked to lead a new Nurture Provision for CAST for SEND children. She takes our fantastic Miss Folley with her as her Teaching Assistant.

I have asked CAST to stop poaching our fantastic staff but it is testimony to how incredible the Keyham team are that they are being head-hunted.

Our Maths magician, Mrs O'Connell, will be leaving us at the end of this term to go into tutoring. She is absolutely brilliant with small group tuition and one on one support and I'll be asking her for her tutoring details for September. I've no doubt she will be incredibly successful and after 31 years of committed teaching to the Keyham team she definitely deserves it.

Miss McDermott, our wonderful Year 3 TA, has been doing additional training in her own time to become a TEFL tutor and will be going on to explore opportunities around this.

Our lovely Mrs Tillbrook, who has been working in Year 5 with Mrs O'Connell, is moving to Northampton and despite my best efforts, I cannot convince her to commute to Plymouth!

We have been fortunate with an incredibly skilled team this year who have navigated the school through the pandemic. I am saddened to lose such fantastic staff and want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all on the Keyham team for their commitment, passion and drive for excellence. You have been truly amazing.

In terms of next year, this means there will be some staff movement and changes. I want to reassure you that we have really considered the impact of COVID when planning this and thought about how we intend our curriculum to move forward and what would be best for our children, as they are the reason we do everything we do.

Next year we welcome Hannah Phillips, who is an EYFS teacher from Holy Cross and Josh Priscott from St Peter's, who will be our Year 5 teacher. Both are excellent teachers with a range of valuable experience that Keyham Barton will really benefit from!

Next year's Class Structure EYFS/KS1 Teaching Team

EYFS/Y1: Miss Phillips/ Mrs Clarke

Y1/2: Mrs Allen/ Mrs Prestidge

Mrs Mcgauran will work across both classes

We have made the decision to mix these classes for a range of reasons. Both our current Foundation and Year 1 have missed a significant part of their education due to Lockdowns both last year and this January to March. With their learning and wellbeing at the heart of it, we have decided that all children having access to the EYFS provision for their mental wellbeing and social and emotional development is important. We are hugely fortunate in that there will only be 55 children across the whole of KS1 and EYFS so just 27 and 28 in each class. They will be able to access 5 rooms and have 5 adults which is a higher ratio that we can normally offer. We are really excited about the creative learning opportunities this will give them! We intend to keep them as 3 small separate classes in the mornings then have a mixed provision in the afternoons where they can access different learning areas. This means we will be able to target the SATS children, keep the standards high but meet their emotional and social needs also. There is a lot of research around how the pandemic has affected our younger children and that these have been the hardest hit as they have not had the same social opportunities they would normally have had. As a school with a mental health and wellbeing charter mark and an award for inclusion, we really feel that ensuring we support our children with their learning and their wellbeing is hugely important. The EYFS/KS1 team are very excited about working together and the exciting learning opportunities and experiences this will enable us to give our children!

Lower KS2 Teaching Team – Year 3 /4

Year 3: Mrs Borthwick/ Mrs Blake/ Miss Jones

Year 4: Mrs Quick and a TA I am currently advertising for.

To support our Year 2's with the transition to a new classroom, key stage and building, we have decided to keep the teachers who they know best, with them! There is a vast amount of experience in this team and they will collaborate across to support the children in their learning and with their emotional wellbeing and social needs also, as we value these equally. Again, we will have small classes with a high adult ratio to support learning and keep our standards high!

Upper KS2 Teaching Team Year 5/6

Year 5: Mr Priscott and a TA I am currently advertising for.

Year 6: Miss Greenacre and Mrs Westlake.

Mrs Walker will work across both classes.

Miss Greenacre and the Year 6 team have a brilliant track record with our standards and SATs scores, which is why we are one of the top ten schools in Plymouth and in the top 3% of schools for progress in the country! Mr Priscott is an outstanding teacher with several years' experience, who we are welcoming from St Peter's. As with other classes, we will have small classes and a high adult to pupil ratio to again support with standards, learning and wellbeing.

As a team, we are really excited to see some of our amazing teachers progress whilst welcoming new, experienced staff to our Keyham team. Please be reassured that all of these changes are based in supporting our children to receive the best education we can provide, based both in research into the best practice and our personal knowledge of our pupils and families.

I am happy to discuss these changes and you are welcome to contact me if you would like to. We will be beginning our transition arrangement over the next few weeks so all children will meet their new teachers.

Many thanks
Rachael Riley