

Dear Parents and Carers,

This afternoon your child met with their new teachers, and in some cases, their new classes. We were very keen for this transition experience to take place, although we of course had some Coronavirus safety measures in place which meant we weren't able to undertake this as fully as in previous years. The feel around the school was positive and we are confident that the classes will get off to a flying start in September.

Please see the attached staffing structure which provides all the relevant details. Please be reassured that we have recruitment interviews taking place next week which will ensure we are at full strength. We have also attached a map showing the classroom numbers and locations. If there is anything that is unclear, then please contact your child's current class teacher.

### General Update

The task of providing as many purposeful and enjoyable experiences for the children whilst seemingly dodging Coronavirus raindrops continues. As does the balancing act of wading through the guidance and logistics for September, whilst focusing on the needs of the children in the here and now. Our fingers are firmly crossed that we do not experience any further bubble closures, though parents I'm sure will be aware of many instances of this occurring in schools everywhere.

Sports days have been really well supported by families, with happy children showing some of their best characteristics too. I think we all deserve a pat on the back for being determined to make these events happen successfully. We still have Year 3 on Monday next week and LH2 on Tuesday. Our Year 6 children have their '**Leavers Assembly**' this Friday morning. They will still need to come to school next week though, especially as they are all off to **Paultons Park** on Monday to study 'forces' as part of the science curriculum!

A reminder that this Friday is the BSA '**Dare to be Different**' day. This a day where all children are invited to come into school 'DIFFERENT' for one day only. Each dare is a 50p donation to The BSA so please feel free to do as many dares as you would like!

Most of the **after school clubs** we have provided are now coming to an end, and I would like to thank the staff and children who have been taking part in these. However, **Alice in Wonderland** rehearsals are continuing apace, with two evening courtyard performances on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. The opportunity to take part in a creative arts performance to a live audience is such a wonderful thing which has been so sorely missing from our lives during the pandemic. My message to the children involved is to absolutely *know your lines* and give it all you've got!

Summer is always the busiest term for members of staff, and the current circumstances have intensified this considerably. I would like to thank everyone at Berrywood for their fantastic commitment and efforts over the course of this turbulent and challenging year. Many colleagues are battling the huge disruption to life that the current wave of cases is causing for so many people. I am incredibly proud of the many ways in which the education and care of the children have so powerfully shone through.

### Staffing Updates

A bitter sweet feature of this time of year is saying goodbye to some and greeting those who are new or who are returning to the school. We are thrilled to be welcoming back Mrs Woods who has been on maternity leave for most of this year. Mrs Woods is resuming her important roles as Year 3 Team Leader and our Curriculum Projects Leader across the school. This is also an opportunity to formally introduce and welcome Laura Morris, who joined our support staff team mid-year. Likewise, Fiona Osgood, who is currently covering a maternity leave within the support staff team.

Miss King is (*finally*) getting married having been forced to postpone due to Covid19 restrictions last summer. We wish her and husband every happiness and success for the wedding this summer, and of course, for their futures together! Sophie will now be known as Mrs Travers.

Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to Diane Troughton who has served us faithfully and energetically during this past year as a maternity cover teacher. Our thanks go to Dianne for her hard work throughout the year, and especially for battling through the serious Covid illness she experienced. Throughout her time with us, she has passionately endeavoured to serve the needs of the children and we of course wish her all the very best for whichever direction her teaching now takes her.

Mike Hopwood joined us for supply work in the Autumn and has been a truly valued member of the team ever since. Mike has worked across the school, but most often in Year 4 delivering fantastic support for pupils and staff alike. My thanks go to Mike for his flexibility and positivity around the place. We of course wish him well for pastures new, but retain more than just a sneaking suspicion that we may well one day see some more of Mike here at Berrywood.

Tania Carr has been an LSA with us at Berrywood since 2015. She has always worked with effort and passion with the children, and a very witty sense of humour as an added bonus! Tania has had a rethink about her future and has opted for a career change into administrative services. We of course wish her all the very best with this and know that she will leave having the firm friendships of many colleagues to take with her.

Lisette Edwards is leaving our support staff as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant after 22 years of dedicated professional service to Berrywood. Lisette is so highly regarded and trusted by her colleagues, performing one of those essential unsung hero roles of providing cover for teachers across KS1 who undertake leadership responsibilities. Lisette will leave with many fond memories and with life-long friendships formed. We wish her all the very best as she focuses on spending more time with, and looking after, members of her family.

Rarely do people reach legendary status, but that is unmistakably the case for Phyll Reeves. One of the things that makes her so special is just how unassuming and humble she is as a person; and just how reluctant she would be to have anything like this ever written of her! A wonderfully caring, inspiring and incredibly intelligent lady is sadly leaving us, again, to spend more time with her Father (*relishing life in his 90's*) and a newly born grandchild. It is difficult to quantify and describe, just how loved and respected Phyll is. She has served generations of Berrywood children and our Year R families since 1993 with wisdom and kindness. Thankfully it is inconceivable that her legacy will ever be overlooked or that she won't, once again, play an important part in our future...

### **Last day of Term**

Some parents have been asking about the finish time for children on the last day of term (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July). Due to the current system of staggered start and finish times, a decision has been made to end the day at the normal time rather than finishing early.

### **Warmer Weather Ahead**

With much hotter weather on the way, please do make sure that children come to school with sun screen, hats and water bottles. It is unlikely that any children will need to wear jumpers or cardigans, so this may help us a little with the end of year tidy-up when it arrives!

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly