

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear KM3 Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide information regarding the teaching arrangements for the class in the summer term.

Firstly, I wanted to provide an update on Miss McFarland. I met with Kerry today and she was in good spirits. We were able to discuss a range of matters, and she is aware of the content of this letter. Miss McFarland is not yet well enough for us to say with certainty when she will return. She plans to return during the summer term, but this won't be for the start of term. If she is able to return to work as hoped for during the summer, then it is very likely to be as part of a phased return. She is missing the class and school community greatly and wanted me to pass on her best wishes to you all. Throughout this time, our approach has been to support Kerry in prioritising her health.

Given the uncertainty of timeframes for Miss McFarland's return, I have needed to ensure as much continuity for the class as possible. I am very pleased to say that Mrs Chung has agreed to continue teaching the class four days a week for the whole summer term. I am certain that this is the best possible outcome in the circumstances, and I am very grateful to Mrs Chung for showing our Berrywood pupils this loyalty and commitment. One of Mrs Chung's great strengths is she strives to get the best out of the children through high expectations for their behaviour and achievement. I very much hope that this is something you recognise and can continue to support as parents.

Miss Lowe will continue to provide the fifth teaching day of the week in the first half term of summer. However, there is a little less by way of certainty regarding her continued availability, as she is approaching the mid-to-latter stages of pregnancy, something the eagle-eyed amongst you may have already observed. I will of course work on our plans for her replacement and inform you of these once they become firmer.

When we have greater certainty of the arrangements for Miss McFarland's return to work, I will lead a class assembly in KM3 to explain the situation to the children and give them the opportunity to ask questions. I am very aware that for 7-8 year olds, it may seem strange having their teacher in school, but not with them in the classroom. I will share with parents the content of the assembly, so that you too can support the messages. In the meantime, as I have said previously, I think it best that everyone focuses on the here and now of the children's learning, achievements and development. Although I am not currently able to be on the courtyard as frequently as normally, I am very happy to answer any questions or concerns on these matters via email: [c.reilly@berrywood-pri.hants.sch.uk](mailto:c.reilly@berrywood-pri.hants.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly

