

## Move Up Day

This afternoon, our children have been meeting the teachers and support staff that they will be with next year. For our current Year 6 pupils, they have been visiting their new secondary schools for the whole day. This transition from old to new classes takes place every year, and is an essential part of helping the children to manage change.

Attached to this newsletter is a staff structure document for parents and carers, which provides quite a lot of information regarding how our school is staffed and organised. I would like to highlight to parents the *Core Market Days Team* and the *Subject Specific LSAs*, as I feel the inclusion of these roles within our staffing structure demonstrates our total commitment to the broader curriculum and our 'School Within a Garden' ethos.

One of the features of being a three form primary with 90 – 96 children in each cohort, is the scope we have to decide how to group our pupils in classes. Our long established pattern is as follows: -

- Classes are formed in Year R and stay together until the end of Year 2.
- The classes are split at the end of Year 2, with the new classes staying together in Years 3 & 4.
- We split again at the end of Year 4, with those new classes staying together until they leave for secondary school.

We do this in order to encourage an ethos of widening friendships and the adaptability to successfully collaborate and learn with an increasing range of people. We have no doubt that this approach has significantly contributed to many former Berrywood pupils adjusting well to their secondary school environments and beyond.

For the majority of children, the class splitting process is something that they take in their stride. For our part, we always emphasise the positive opportunities this brings and seek to support pupils who find change unsettling. A lot of care and consideration goes into forming new classes, with members of staff taking into account a lot of factors in order to achieve a good balance across the year group.

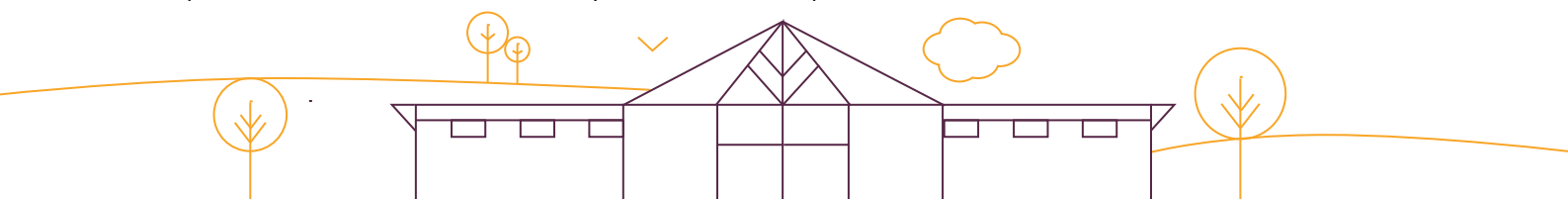
## Staff Leavers and Joiners

Farewell once again to the spirited and fabulous soul that was Caroline Price, who so sadly passed away earlier in the summer. We were able to pay our respects and say our goodbyes at a beautiful ceremony in the packed crematorium during the half-term break... *sweet Caroline*.

Emma Hailston is leaving us to join our former colleagues Tim Clarke and Laura Rodbourne at Cornerstone Primary in Whitely. Emma started working at Berrywood in 1999... she is so well-regarded and deeply loved it is actually quite hard to imagine the place without her. However, things move on in people's lives, and we wish Emma the very best of luck with her new ventures and challenges.

Rachel Anthes is retiring from education when we break for the summer holidays in pursuit of living life to the very fullest, and she absolutely has all of our best wishes in doing so. Rachel has been a member of staff at Berrywood for 14 years, serving mostly as an LSA in Year 6. Rachel's huge list of qualities include: infinite patience, great knowledge, a keen analytical mind, diligence, sensitivity and kindness. She will be very hard to replace and will be sorely missed by her many colleagues and friends.

Natalie Cockell is leaving us to take on an exciting Year 6 teaching role in a Fareham school. Natalie began her teaching career with us four years ago and has given her all in classes across Key Stage 1 and 2. Joining the teaching profession during a pandemic understandably presented Natalie with a number of unusual challenges. She can be very proud of the way in which she has faced these with a growing sense of resilience and determination. We wish Natalie well in the new ventures, and hope that she maintains the best of Berrywood values in her practice.



Louisa Webb will be leaving us on a temporary basis to have her baby. Just as I did with all three of my children, Louisa has taken to pregnancy pretty seamlessly. This has enabled her to remain a fantastic class teacher, as well as being a strong and purposeful year team leader throughout the course of this academic year. Thank you for being such a star, good luck, and we look forward to your return when the time is right.

Lauren Melluish is joining us to teach in Year 4 from a Southampton school. We are excited to have her on board at Berrywood, and wish her well in establishing herself. Lauren has many interests and hobbies, the latest of which being playing Dodgeball with a local club. Steffan Thomas has now qualified and re-joins Berrywood as a teacher in the coming academic year. Steffan has retained his sociable qualities and will no doubt bring great spirit and camaraderie to the team. Steffan will be predominantly based in Year 2, but will also have responsibilities in other year groups.

Katie Newman has now been with us as an administrative assistant for a few weeks, but I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome her to Berrywood. Katie has settled into her role really well, and we wish her continued success ahead. A different Katie - Katie Head - will be joining us as a KS2 LSA, having had quite a lot of experience in other schools. Katie is a new parent at Berrywood, and we wish her well establishing herself both professionally and within the community.

We are also welcoming on board two other new members of the support staff team. Hannah Strode will be working in Key Stage 1 as a Special Needs Assistant. It is great to have Hannah now officially on board, her having spent quite a lot of time volunteering in classrooms with us. Likewise, Regan Taylor has been appointed to undertake an SNA role in Year 5 having similarly volunteered with us for some time.

Last but far from least, Miss Phillips is planning to be married over the summer and will be known as Mrs Thompson from September, congratulations and good luck with everything!

### **'School Within a Garden' Summer Fayre**

Thank you for the amazing support and turnout at the summer fayre on Saturday. Thank you also to the BSA organising committee, and the parent and staff volunteers whose hard work made everything possible. Thanks to your generosity and support, we managed to raise a whopping £5,700 in much needed funds for the school!!

However, it was equally as important and pleasing to be able to provide great opportunities for the children to take part in the activities and have fun. We know many of you enjoyed seeing: the animals from Mill Cottage Farm; taking part in the fun run; buying flowers, crafts, treats and salads from the Market Days stalls; tucking into the burgers and homemade ice-creams; visiting the bar, listening to the Busking Band; watching and enjoying the Dance Junkies, our choir children and the *Rock Bottom* performers. Perhaps fittingly, our fayre ended with a hard-fought and entertaining 3-3 draw in the Year 6 v Staff football match!

We of course genuinely hope that you really did enjoy yourselves as much as you seemed to be. We tried very hard to keep prices as affordable as possible, and the range of activities and stalls as wide as possible. We do now feel quite confident that this style of fayre is what the overwhelming majority of our community want to see us continue to provide. Thanks once again, to those special people for so effectively bringing it all together.