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Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers

### **Staffing Update 1**

As a result of me moving on from Westwood in September 2018, the school is in need of a new Head Teacher to lead the school forward into the next chapters of its future. Following a Governor Meeting held on Monday evening, the following decisions were confirmed.

1. As there is not enough time to go through the full application process for a new head to begin in September, the post will be advertised after half term for a January 2019 start.
2. I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Jayne Williams has been appointed into the position of Acting Head Teacher from September 1<sup>st</sup> and will be in full charge of the school.
3. I am also pleased to inform you that Mrs Janet Harrison has been appointed to the position of Acting Deputy Head from September 1<sup>st</sup> and will support Mrs Williams fully as the immediate leadership team.
4. Further discussions are currently under way as to who will take up the vacancy in Mrs Williams's class once she becomes Acting Head.

I know you will give both Mrs Williams and Mrs Harrison your support as they begin a new direction for the school in September.

### **Staffing Update 2**

Miss Rhian Hughes has been successful in her application to become a full time Behaviour Support Advisor for Flintshire Inclusion Service. Although this is a huge loss to Westwood, Flintshire has gained a wealth of expertise to make their support for children a lot stronger. I know Miss Hughes will always be supportive of Westwood and will be close on hand for any advice in areas relevant to her role. I am sure we all wish her well as she embarks on her new challenge.

I'm sure you will agree that Mrs Matthews has done a super job as our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) since Easter and will continue in this position for the immediate future. In the new academic year, the ALNCo position will be advertised as a permanent position.

### **Inspection Update**

Since announcing my decision to leave Westwood, I have received many compliments in relation to how much the school has transformed over the term of my leadership. Naturally, I am very proud and humbled to hear such comments but I must share these encouraging sentiments with the whole team at Westwood. The success and transformation of the school is purely down to the contributions of the whole Westwood team.

This said, the Estyn Inspectors need to know exactly how you feel in their meeting with parents next Monday at 3:45pm in the school hall. Your voice is essential in helping Estyn to make a judgment about *your* school and I know nearly all of you have some very positive and valuable points to express. Remember that your comments and opinions about Westwood affect us all so your constructive and positive approach is appreciated. We have the aspiration to be rightly known as an excellent school and a great deal of effort and commitment goes into this vision.



## **Safeguarding**

I would like to remind you of the following points to safeguard our pupils and staff.

1. The external green metal gate leading to Nursery/ Reception will be closed and locked at 9:10am. It is essential that the school site is vacated by this time.
2. All late arrivals for Nursery and Reception Classes must report to the Main Office. Please do not try to access the classes by any other route.
3. The Main Entrance has been getting rather busy in the morning. Please only enter the school building if you have a matter of urgency that needs immediate attention. In the morning, Miss Pickering or Mrs Griffiths are on hand to deal with quick matters. For more complex matters, it may be necessary to request a call back from a Class Teacher or even Mr Nicholson (if it is serious or has already gone through the appropriate channels).
4. If you are waiting for a friend or having a chat after dropping off, please kindly do so away from the Main Entrance door as it restricts access to the doors.
5. We expect all children to be in the building by 8:50am. Registration begins at 8:50am. Arriving at 8:55am or 9:00am is late. These late arrivals are very disruptive for the children and staff. Well done to those of you who do manage to arrive on time every day! It really makes a big difference to the start of the day for your child and to the organization of the school day.

## **Reception Class Parent's Evening**

I have not forgotten my pledge to hold the Reception Class Parent's Evening in Mrs Jones' absence. Originally, I had hoped to offer you the opportunity to meet with me before this half term but I have had to prioritise my available time to prepare for our school inspection. Being considerate, understanding parents, I know you will fully understand the situation and will extend your patience until after half term. For this, I cannot thank you enough!

## **Thank You**

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all parents and family members who have given up their time to help us in a variety of ways recently. We have had jet washing, outdoor resource cleaning, fence building, painting, planting and ground clearing in various areas around school. This really does make a huge difference! Over the years, I have always been overwhelmed by the additional contributions from parents and family members who have been prepared to share their skills and machinery from work (eg demolishing the old Quiet Garden and plastering/ rendering walls).

## **After School Behaviour**

Thank you to the vast majority of children who remain respectful, well-behaved and close to their parents between 3:05pm and 3:15pm. I would also like to thank parents who keep a close watchful eye on their children if they are playing whilst waiting for their older siblings to come out of school. Children are allowed to play on the wooden climbing apparatus and tyre park but they must be supervised at all times. Please do not let your child enter the Nursery/ Reception Play Area or Wildlife Garden!

## **Young Voices Choir**

Back by popular demand, the Young Voices Choir will be singing in the Buckley Precinct outside Iceland at approximately 12:00pm tomorrow (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May). They'll be finished by about 12:20pm. This was a recent idea mentioned by the choir in a practice session this week and they want it to act as a tribute to Mr Mike Beech who sadly past away earlier this year and loved to hear our amazing children sing. If you are free, please join us.

## **Mrs Williams is going to the Skate Park!**

Just for your information, Mrs Williams will be taking her maths group to the local skate park tomorrow (Thursday) to work on real-life numeracy situations. They'll only be there for an hour or so as part of the lesson before returning to school for lunch and/or meeting up with the Young Voices Choir.