

6th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are continuing to keep well during these unprecedented times. I would like to update you on our staffing arrangements and those staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term.

For those of you who have children in Newt, Swan and Kingfisher Classes you will be aware that the Class Teachers have been or are about to go on maternity leave. Mrs Webb had a healthy baby girl earlier in the year and Mrs Bryant and Miss Golding are expecting their baby's any day soon! I would like to wish them all the very best with bringing their new little ones into the world.

Staff Leaving:

After 33 years at Hamstel Infant School Mrs Holohan has made the decision to retire. This really is a monumental decision as Mrs Holohan started in September 1987 as a newly qualified teacher and has remained at Hamstel ever since. Mrs Holohan has been through many changes within the school and has provided the continuity through all. She has held positions of responsibility mainly including Maths, Science and Music over the years. Mrs Holohan has led our School Choir now for many years, preparing and taking children to many Music Festivals. She also instigated the Carol Singing at our local Homes for the Elderly annually to share the joy of Christmas within our community. Her support, dedication and hard work will be missed by us all. I would like to thank Mrs Holohan on behalf of everyone at Hamstel for her amazing achievements and providing guidance and support that must amount to more than a 1,000 children's start in life.

I would like to thank Miss Colwell, Miss Carter and Mrs Ali who will all be leaving us at the end of term to take up new positions in other schools. I would also like to thank Mr Sayer who will be leaving to take up a secondment within our Trust to achieve his aim of teaching KS 2 children. I would like to wish all these teachers the very best for their futures, they have all contributed amazingly to the life at Hamstel in supporting and guiding the children and I know they will be great assets to the schools they are joining.

Mrs Crisp will also be leaving us and I would like to thank her for her work in supporting staff and children in her role as Teaching Assistant.

We are fully staffed for September and we will be welcoming our new staff over the coming weeks to allow them to become familiar with our routines and procedures before the start of term.



Our new Teachers joining are Mrs Jenkins, Miss Parmenter, Miss Whiston, Miss Brown, Miss Crowe and Miss Flynn. I know you will support us in welcoming them on board in these rather strange times.

Your child will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher either on the morning of Monday 20th July for Amber Groups or on Tuesday 21st July for Blue Groups.

You will be made aware of who will be leading your child's class next year in the reports that will be sent home during the week beginning 13th July. Children attending in their Amber or Blue Groups will be given their report to take home on the second day of attendance. Any child unable to attend will have their report posted out on Friday 17th July.

We have no idea what will happen regarding the coronavirus pandemic over the Summer holidays but we are prepared for any eventuality and we will confirm start dates, times and provision towards the end of August when we know more of how the land lies. We are bringing years 1 and 2 back on the first 2 days in their current Amber and Blue Groups, Amber Groups on Thursday 3rd September and Blue Groups on Friday 4th September. We believe this will help familiarise the children once again with attending school without being overwhelmed on the first day with being in whole classes.

We are arranging for Reception and Nursery Classes to join us following transition times which have been communicated to the new children joining us. These children too will be placed in Amber and Blue Groups should the need arise for partial opening again.

School is a very safe place and many adjustments have been made. The children attending currently are thoroughly enjoying being back at school as we are in seeing them back. Our success lies in your hands, if your child shows any signs of not being well please keep them at home and have them checked out by a doctor or by phoning NHS 111. Not all children display symptoms of coronavirus but may well be infected, for their sake and us all please err on the side of caution at all times. I do wish you all a very relaxing Summer break, a period for quality family time before returning to school. The current message from the Government is the expectation that all children will attend full time in classes of no more than 30 in September. We will be working towards achieving this but are also mindful that things may well change. You have been brilliant in your support for what the school has been able to achieve so far and would ask that you bear with us once again. Please be assured that everything is done with your child's and the staff's safety paramount to any decisions made.

Please continue to keep yourselves and your family's safe over the Summer holiday and we look forward to seeing all the children back whenever it is safe to do so.

Lisa Clark

