

Dear Families,

I wanted to write to you all to thank you for all the support and help you have been giving me and the school since I started. We have made so many positive strides forward and I am determined for this to continue over the next few months. I also want to thank you for the brilliant start to the day we now have. We have reduced our lates dramatically and our teachers are managing to work with pupils around their next steps in a morning and this is helping them in their learning. Thank you.

I do need to notify you of a few staffing changes. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Kay has secured a headship in a school out of Rotherham. We are so proud of her and we know she will be a brilliant headteacher. I have worked with Mrs Kay for 19 months at both East Dene and Coleridge and I know that she has all the attributes to lead a school successfully. She has worked tirelessly since joining East Dene 12 months ago and was hugely instrumental in the successful Ofsted report in November. I have loved working with Mrs Kay and she has helped me become a better leader. She will be sadly missed by pupils, families and staff but we also know she will go on to great things in her career. We will make sure we give Mrs Kay the send-off that she deserves.

As a result, we have appointed a new Deputy Headteacher called Mrs Harding. Mrs Harding currently works in an extremely challenging area in Sheffield and her school recently achieved good with outstanding features at Ofsted. Mrs Harding really impressed the interview panel with her strong communication, measured approach and her strong knowledge of good teaching and learning. Mrs Harding also met some children during the day and we cannot wait for her to join the school after Easter.

We are also thrilled for Mrs Mimms, as she has secured a teaching post in another school. Mrs Mimms has worked at East Dene for over a decade and has always shown great passion and commitment to her role. She has led phonics in an exemplary manner over the past 7 years and has been instrumental in giving the children firm foundations to read fluently. We know her new school are gaining such a dedicated and thoughtful teacher. Again, we will make sure Mrs Mimms gets the send-off she richly deserves. Thankfully, we can ensure a smooth transition for the children as we have teachers in school who can take over. We are so fortunate that we have Mrs Richardson, who will be covering the class until the end of the summer term.

In other staffing updates, Miss McNally will be moving down to Coleridge after the SATs to cover a maternity leave. Miss McNally will only be leaving the school for a year; we wish her well and know that she will enjoy her time at Coleridge. Miss Norris is about to take maternity leave from the 15th of May. Again, internal teaching staff will be covering the class, ensuring consistency for the children; Miss Paisley and Miss Gordon will be covering the maternity leave. We wish Miss Norris and her family a joyous time with their new addition.

We have also appointed a Trust Social Worker to support with our safeguarding leaders across the 3 schools. Keeley Stevens will be joining us from the 27th of March and will help support with case loads and do supportive work with families and children. I know you will all make her feel welcome.

Once again, a huge thank you for all your support over the past few months - school is in such a strong place and it's because of the collaboration between us all.

Thanks
Mr Tankard