



11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you today with some updates regarding the leadership at Worplesdon Primary School.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a well-established Executive Headteacher in Mrs O'Brien who has built an outstanding leadership team consisting of:

- Mrs Bassett-Cross, Head Teacher
- Mrs Woodruff, Deputy Head Teacher
- Mr Clifton & Mr Torjussen, Assistant Head Teachers
- Mrs Earl-Smith, SENDCo
- Mrs Punchard, head of our specialist centre for Communication & Interactive Needs (COIN)
- Senior year group leaders

Mrs Bassett-Cross continues to lead the school and drives forward our collective vision for the children at Worplesdon.

The culture that has been built at Worplesdon is one that develops future teachers and leaders, and to this end, we have exciting news to share. Mrs Radhika Woodruff has been appointed as Acting Head Teacher at Knaphill Junior School from the summer term.

Mrs Woodruff has been an excellent teacher and outstanding leader during her time at Worplesdon, and we know she will continue to offer that same level of expertise, direction, and insight in her new position at Knaphill. As you may know, the leadership team already work closely with the Knaphill Federation of Schools (as part of the partnership that is strengthening between our school and the Bright Future Learning Trust); Mrs Woodruff will help to further strengthen these ties between our schools. We know you will join us in wishing Mrs Woodruff all the best as she begins this exciting new role.

While the school community will of course miss Mrs Woodruff, we are lucky to have a talented cohort of teachers ready to step into leadership positions in her absence. As the school begins a robust recruitment process for a full-time replacement from September, our current Assistant Head Teachers Mr Matt Clifton and Mr Dan Torjussen will be stepping in as Acting Co-Deputies for the summer term. Throughout their time at Worplesdon, both Mr Clifton and Mr Torjussen have played a vital part of our leadership team, working closely alongside Mrs Woodruff, and we are confident that they will do a brilliant job and seamlessly transition into these roles.

Mr Clifton and Mr Torjussen will continue to be the class teachers of Kestrels Class and Doves Class respectively, however they will need additional release time to fulfil their new responsibilities. Both classes already benefit from trainee teachers (Miss Sands & Mr Bowers) who, as part of their teaching qualification, are required to teach 80% of the timetable by the summer term. This will enable Mr Clifton and Mr Torjussen to be non-teaching in the afternoon sessions to fulfil their deputy responsibilities and they will continue to teach the core subjects in the morning. Miss Sands and Mr Bowers will be closely supported by the leadership team during these times.

In the meantime, we will be internally appointing two Assistant Head Teachers from within our school. This is an exciting opportunity for aspiring leaders within our school community to bring forward their knowledge and skills to



Worplesdon
Primary School

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help further build on the strong foundations we have already established at Worplesdon. These positions remain class-based. Once these appointments have been made, we will inform you in due course.

We know you will all continue to show your support to our leadership team as they take these next steps. Throughout this process and for all staffing changes within the school, the teaching, learning and welfare of your children continues to be our focus and priority. Your ongoing support is pivotal to the success of our school, and we are very grateful.

If you have any questions or anything you would like to discuss regarding the above, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the leadership team or one of us.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Pitman
Co-Chairs of the Governing Board

David Philpot