

UPDATE 24.4.20



Dear Parents/Carers,

'Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.'

Thank you again to all families for your fantastic feedback on how you are and how the homelearning is going.

Don't forget keep accessing staff's regular updates for learning to do at home on our school website.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>

It's been great to see the children of key workers this week in school and we thank those families again for all the essential work they are doing.

Staffing update:

We held interviews yesterday and we are delighted to inform you that we have recruited a fantastic new teacher to fill our vacancy. Her name is Miss Hartshorne and she will be a newly qualified teacher, beginning her career with us in September. Her strengths are very much in KS1 and English and for that reason I have decided to place her in Year 1. The current reception class may remember Miss Hartshorne as she did a week's placement with them right at the beginning of the academic year. She was the stand out candidate for her energy and enthusiasm, her creativity and her high quality planning, lesson delivery and excellent subject knowledge. I know the children will love her and love her lessons. I also know they will make good progress with the quality of her pedagogy.

As it stands, my plan for the rest of the school is for Mrs Read to remain in Reception class, Miss Wain to move to Year 2 and Miss Cooper to move into Year 3, with Mr Hindhaugh remaining in Year 4. Obviously circumstances, as we have seen, can change, so this is not yet set in stone. I am continuing to work on budgeting for how much TA support we can put into each class based on age, needs and size of the classes. My aim is put as much in as we can afford to. This will enable us to support all the children moving forward in these very strange times.

I am still hopeful that we will return before the end of term, in which case we will prioritize the children's health and wellbeing, catching up of any lost learning, and transition to get the children ready for the next year group/phase.

In September, I hope you will warmly welcome and support our new teacher, as this will be a challenging time for us all and it is important that we pull together to recover from this horrendous situation, so that we can make sure the children are not negatively impacted long term.

I really do, from the bottom of my heart, hope that you and your families are all well. Just to remind you someone will be answering the phone now in school so please ring if you have any questions, queries or concerns, or just want to talk. And of course keep emailing us with your feedback on how it's all going.

Thank you.

Love and best wishes,

Kay Hanson