



Winklebury Federation

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18 June 2019

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are all aware, there have been many budget cuts in education over recent years that have had an impact on the Federation budget and we have had to make significant changes to staffing and other areas over the past 2 years.

Unfortunately our numbers coming in to year R have also declined, which has had another negative impact on an already tight budget. Our numbers have been declining for the past 3 years, due to low birth rates and the expansion of another school nearby.

In September 2018 we only had 34 children in year R and we ran 2 classes, but with only 30 children joining us this September we now need to make changes to the way in which the infant school is organised. Therefore, in September the class organisation will be one year R class and 3 mixed year 1 and 2 classes.

I appreciate that parents may be concerned over the children being taught in mixed ability classes, but I would like to reassure you that we are working together to ensure the best education for all children. The learning will be tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of all pupils individually. The staff at Winklebury are experienced in planning and delivering learning to the needs of each child. They will provide challenges to the more able and support for those needing more help; planning for good progression whatever curriculum year group they are in.

Obviously reducing the number of classes will mean that we need less staff in the infant school. Fortunately there are staff members who are retiring or moving on, so no redundancies have had to be made at this time.

The staff changes for September are as follows:

Mrs Clarkson, HLTA, has secured a job outside of education and has left Winklebury this term. Her role is being covered by Miss Holland until the end of term, after which Miss Barry and Miss Edwards will be sharing the role.

Mrs Graham, Infant school teacher, is taking early retirement to spend more time with her family.

Mr Johnston, Junior school teacher, is emigrating to America.

Mrs Smith, Junior school teacher, is moving on to another local school, having been at Winklebury since she became a teacher.

Mrs Chessman, Junior school teacher, will not be returning following her maternity leave.

We wish all of the above staff luck with their future plans and thank them for their commitment to Winklebury during their time with us.

With the above staff leaving we have new staff joining us in the Junior school, Miss King will be joining us from Kingsclere Primary School and will be a senior leader with responsibility for English, Mrs Daly is joining us from Guillemont Junior School in Farnborough and Miss Oliver will be starting her teaching career with us. In addition to this Miss Jones will be moving from the Infant school to the Junior school in September.

The final piece of news is that our fantastic and dedicated site manager, Mr Bill O'Dee, will be retiring in July. Many of you know that he celebrated a very big birthday earlier this year and has decided that it is time to spend more time with his family. We will certainly be giving him a big send off, so watch this space for details.

I appreciate that there is a lot of change to consider, but I would like to reassure you that the quality of education remains our number one priority and we are really excited about the new chapter that is about to begin.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Mathlin".

Mrs. S. Mathlin
Head of Federation