



PARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr P Griffin

15th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It was fantastic last week to welcome all the children and staff back to Park Hill. It has been wonderful to see them settle so seamlessly back into learning and re-connecting with friends.

We have thought hard about the children returning to school. We have employed additional staff to support additional measures that are in place. Over lunchtime, an additional cleaner has been employed to ensure that all toilets across the school are cleaned - halfway through the school day. We have also employed additional staff to support operations over lunchtime - ensuring that more staff are around over lunchtime to support the children's needs. We will of course review how these additional measures are working and make changes when we feel we should do.

Staffing update

A few staff who have been on leave from work have returned this term too. Miss Nickerson has been on leave since the birth of her son last year. She is currently part of the teaching team working across Year 5 and 6 - providing additional support for children across the phase. Mrs Rosser has also been on maternity leave since last year. Next week, she will be welcomed back to Park Hill and will re-join the Reception Team just as Miss Moxam begins her maternity leave. It has been a busy time for baby arrivals at Park Hill - covered in even more detail a little later in this letter!

Staff leaving

I would like to share that there are some staff leaving us at the end of term - staff who have contributed long service and commitment to the children at Park Hill.

Claire Barrett has worked at school since January 2013. Since then, Mrs Barrett has maintained two roles - initially employed as a teaching assistant before dedicating her time entirely as Pastoral Manager. When I was new to my headship post here, Mrs Barrett worked collaboratively to introduce new systems across the school and increased the capacity to focus on improving our support to children as well as improving our child protection and safeguarding systems. There are countless examples of Mrs Barrett supporting children - often children who are in great need of that additional help or an extra 'helping' of TLC!

At the end of term, Mrs Barrett has made a decision to take 'very' early retirement - she has continually reminded me 'very' early! So, after Easter, we will have to get used to the fact that Mrs Barrett will not be around - she is sure to miss us just as much as we will miss her. I

would like to say thank you to her for her work at school and to wish her the very best in her early retirement.

Ann Baxter has a long association with Park Hill - since January 2002. Ann has worked as a lunchtime supervisor but more recently as Deputy Playleader in Buddies - the before and after school club for children. Ann has worked with hundreds of children her time at school and is well known to a many different families. Ann has decided to retire at the end of the term so that she can dedicate more time for her and towards her family. Again, I would like to wish Ann the very best in her retirement and to say thank you for her commitment to the children and families at Park Hill.

Joyce Williams will also be known by a great many of you - she too has a long association with the school having started here back in 2006. Then, she worked as a lunchtime supervisor before moving to work in Buddies. Over the last few years, Joyce has maintained a role as Buddies Leader. For many children, Joyce has been the first member of staff they meet in the morning and for others, the last they see in an evening as they leave school and head home.

Joyce will leave Park Hill at the end of the term and begin her 'well-deserved' retirement. Her love and care for the children is quite evident and I know how difficult Joyce will find no longer working in school and surrounded by children. However, I would like to wish the very best for her retirement and to say thank you to her for her dedication to the children that she has worked with.

...and other news!

I am trying my hardest here to update the Park Hill Community with the 'good news' stories that I know you will be pleased to hear.

In January, Mrs Willacy welcomed her second child and second daughter into the world. In February, Mrs Madeloff welcomed her first baby and at the beginning of this month Mrs Roper gave birth to a daughter. All new arrivals have been girls!

Finally

You may have heard me say this on more than one occasion recently, but it is really great to be back and long may the return of all children last. Please continue to ensure that you are maintaining social distance and playing your part in helping to reduce Covid infection rates across the community.

Wishing you all a happy and positive second week.

Kind regards,

Mr P Griffin
Headteacher
Park Hill Primary School