



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Megan Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Wednesday 14th December 2022

Staffing Update – December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of a very busy, yet full term, there are several staffing updates which I wanted to share with you all.

Miss Heath

It is with mixed feelings that I share that Miss Heath has made the decision to return to Australia with her family. She has been a fabulous teacher at the school and will be missed by us all. However, she has made this decision, so that her children can enjoy their teenage years in her home country and be near her parents. This is an exciting time for her family and we send our love with them all as they start on this wonderful new adventure. She is known and loved by our children and many of you. Please join me in sending her family our best wishes.

Mr Bunn

Mr Bunn will not be returning at the start of Term 3. It is hoped that he will be back with us shortly after. I will write to you with updates as soon as they are available. In the meantime, the class will be taught by Mrs Bates and Mrs Ford. Both experienced Year 6 teachers. Mrs Wells will continue to teach the class science as always.

Year 5 update

As a result of Miss Heath's decision to return to Australia we have been proactively advertising for a new member of staff in Year 5. We send our thanks to Mrs Townsend who will continue as co-class teacher with Mrs Johnson until a replacement has been secured. We have been advertising widely for this post and will update you as soon as we know more.

Staff changes

We are very proud to announce that our wonderful Mrs Dee, one of our Teaching Assistants, has successfully secured a role working within the NHS finance team, after many months of study in accountancy. We will miss Mrs Dee's calm and supportive manner and wish her all the very best in her new adventure. Foxes class are currently being supported by our other KS1 TAs until a new Teaching Assistant has been appointed.

Miss Emm and Mrs Dunlop have also been busy. They have been studying behind the scenes and have qualified for Higher Level Teaching Assistant status. We are very proud of them – well done both of you – it is well deserved.

I am delighted to share (although you may have noticed) that Mrs Bates has re-joined us following maternity leave. I am sure you will join me in extending a warm welcome to her. I would like to thank Mrs Ford for taking on the role in her absence. She has proved to be such an excellent leader, making a positive impact on all areas of school life. Her dedication to children and staff alike is exceptional. So, it



is with great pleasure, that I share, that Mrs Ford has agreed to assume the role joint deputy with Mrs Bates, working Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

New Staff

Ms Ellie Bass has also joined our MDSA team, supporting the children at lunchtime. As part of her induction, she has been working across all the year groups to get to know the children.

I am delighted to announce that Mr James Slater has joined us at Downton Primary School. Mr Slater joins us as a Teaching Assistant whilst he waits to complete his PGCE next year. He has significant experience of teaching abroad and is also working in After School Club on a Monday and Thursday evening.

It is with great sadness that I share that, Mrs Foyle our School Business Manager has made the decision to retire at the end of January to spend more time with her grandchildren. She has been the driving force behind much of the expansion of the school. Ensuring that we could employ such a wonderful team and afford the wonderful facilities which many other schools do not have. She leaves the school posed to be the best it has ever been, not only be the best in terms of teaching but the best in terms of resources and infrastructure that it can be. Please join us in thanking her. Miss Becky Cornell has been appointed as our new Finance Officer and has already started with Mrs Foyle to take over the reins – I know that Miss Cornell will be a true asset to the school.

Please join me in extending a very warm welcome to all our staff, and a fond farewell to our leavers.

Best wishes



Paula Carlton

