

24.6.20

Newsletter – Important Information Included

This newsletter has been written to share some of the changes that will be happening in the next academic year. Despite the challenges we have faced over the last few months, 2020-21 promises to be an exciting year for Buckfastleigh Primary School.

Changes to some Classes

As you are probably aware, we have a number of mixed age classes at Buckfastleigh. Classes 4 and 5 have children from two different year groups in them. I have decided, with the support of the Trust, the staff and the governors to make every class single year groups from September 2020. This means that there will be no mixed age classes next year.

Originally, mixed classes were created because a number of year groups had too many children for one class. This is not the case now and we are in a great position to make sure that all children are taught with children their own age. Teachers will be able to focus their planning on one year group rather than having to prepare two different curriculums and these classes can bond as a team and foster positive friendships before they reach their last year of primary school. Both myself and the governors, feel this is a positive step that will help the school in the coming year.

Staff Leaving

It has got to that time of year again when some members of staff move on to new challenges and experiences.

I am excited to tell you that Sam McCarthy has been successful in applying for job as Head of School at Ilsington Primary School. This is a fantastic promotion for her and is well deserved following her hard work and commitment over the last few years. I would like to thank her for her support during my first year at Buckfastleigh and wish her good luck next year.

Shelley Micklewright has decided to leave teaching to try a new challenge within the family business. She has been a well-loved teacher at Buckfastleigh over the last two years and one that will be missed. Shelley has said that she will miss all the children, staff and families.

Suzie Kendall will be leaving us at the end of this year. I would like to thank her for her commitment and hard work over the last 18 months at Buckfastleigh. She has said she will really miss all the staff and children next year.

Nicole Willis has worked with us as a supply teacher during a period of staff absence. I would like to thank her for her hard work and commitment during this tricky period. She has been motivated and enthusiastic, putting the children first at all times.

Finally, following a period of absence, Mr Irons has made the decision not to return to Buckfastleigh Primary School. We wish him well for the future.

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I am really excited to introduce you to the teaching team for next year. Some have familiar faces and some are new. Each of our staff have sent a message so you can find out a bit more about them.

Year 6 - Sam Roberts

Hello all! You might already know me because you've seen me busy around school. I have been at Buckfastleigh now for three years and am motivated everyday to becoming a better teacher. Next year, I am going to be leading Maths across the school and am genuinely excited about the chance to share what I'm learning about teaching Maths.



An assortment of other things about me that are true at the minute are:

- 1) I am currently on a proper health kick alongside my fiancé Emily because during lockdown enough has become enough for us when it comes to food and snacks.
- 2) I was going to get married on the 25th July but we're in the process of re-arranging that one.
- 3) I'm a massive Liverpool fan but alongside that, put any sport on in front of me or ask me to have a go at anything sporting and I'll be in my element and get very competitive.
- 4) I am a Sidmouthian born and raised.
- 5) Anything else you might want to know (within reason) just ask.

Best wishes
Mr Sam Roberts

Year 5 - Jo Pen-Collings

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a new team member at Buckfastleigh Primary School. I am delighted to be given this opportunity and I look forward to getting to know you and your children in the new school year.



Before I'm able to meet you, I'll tell you a little about me. I grew up in Plymouth, but went away to the University of Derby to study Biology, before taking my PGCE to become a teacher. I now live in Plymouth with my husband, my two children and my two dogs - a German Shepherd and a Dachshund. Our German Shepherd is a working Police Dog. I enjoy yoga, walking and gardening, which I have been making the most of in this nice weather.

I understand that many of you will have questions for me and I would be more than happy to answer these. I will be working full-time and will gladly be available to speak to you all from September. During these uncertain times, I would like to assure you that I will endeavour to make the September transition a smooth and enjoyable one for the children. I am excited to join your school community and begin creating wonderful learning opportunities with your children.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Jo Pen-Collings.

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Year 4 – Emily Light



Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with your children next year. I look forward to getting to know them all in September.

Here is a little bit more information so that you can get to know me. My name is Emily Light. I grew up in Devon and I love the beautiful countryside we are lucky enough to have all around us. I have been teaching for 4 years after training with Devon Primary SCITT. I like learning new things and challenging myself. Pasta, chocolate and the colour blue are a few of my favourite things!

I really enjoy creating exciting learning journeys. I love seeing children filled with curiosity and wonder about how the world works. I look forward to a year full of excitement, questions and enthusiasm.

Best wishes

Miss Emily Light

Year 3 – Charlotte Angell

My name is Charlotte Angell and I am so excited to be teaching Class 3 in September! I am from a small Island called Jersey but have been living in Plymouth for the past three years to complete my Teacher Training. I have completed a Primary Teaching degree with the University of Plymouth specialising in the humanities which means I have a passion for broader curriculum subjects such as history, geography, PSHE and RE. This means I focus my passion on ensuring every child has a well rounded experience of their education, in addition to developing confidence and competence in English and Maths. Getting children excited about reading is also very important to me and I am looking forward to basing some of our topics around rich children's literature and using it across the curriculum. I love being out in nature and I believe this to be extremely beneficial for children, both educationally and for overall well-being, therefore I will be taking every opportunity to take pupils outside of the classroom for their learning, from areas around the school to day trips further afield.



I do Surf Lifesaving as a hobby and have been the club captain for the University of Plymouth Surf Lifesaving Club for the past two years. I also have a passion for teaching swimming, having taught for eight years in Jersey and America, I can't wait to get involved in teaching my class at Buckfastleigh Primary School.

Best wishes

Miss Charlotte Angell

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Year 2 – Dan Wase



My name is Mr Wase and I am proud to be a new teacher at Buckfastleigh Primary School. I am from Truro in Cornwall. Recently, I moved to Plymouth to complete a primary teaching degree at Plymouth University. Although I am a newly qualified teacher, I have had lots of experience in schools across Devon, Cornwall and even Hungary! My course included a specialism in mathematics which I'm looking forward to sharing with your children so they can become more confident mathematicians. I also enjoy a variety of sports such as football, boxing and swimming as well as having an interest in technology too. I aim to create a new sports or technology club next term.

This year will be my first year as a qualified teacher and I am very excited to get to know you all and be a part of the community at Buckfastleigh Primary School. I would like all parents to feel they can approach me whenever they

need to. I am passionate to help all children across all subjects and in their daily lives to meet our vision of making sure every child feels safe respected and ready to step out into the world. I look forward to meeting all of you soon.

Best wishes,

Mr Dan Wase

Year 1 – Sarah Strong

I am delighted to be appointed as a class teacher at Buckfastleigh Primary School. As someone who lives locally and knows the community spirit that surrounds us all, I am thrilled to be able to become more connected to this wonderful town. My family and I love being outside, exploring the countryside and wildlife, my little boy loves looking for ducks, so you can imagine Buckfastleigh is perfect for that.

I have spent the last 5 years working as a key stage 1 teacher in Plymouth, where I first began my teaching and learning journey. As a teacher, I have been responsible for the reading diet for our youngest readers. I love children's books; they can ignite the most incredible creativity and drive dreams beyond all imagination. This is the learning I want all children to experience and I cannot wait to share my enthusiasm, passion and drive with you all. I look forward to working with you all soon.



Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Strong

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Reception – Amy Walton



My name is Amy Walton and I am very much enjoying teaching at Buckfastleigh Primary School. I am looking forward to getting to know all the children and their families.

I am from South Wales and this is where I gained my degree in English Literature and Education. I really enjoy reading a variety of literature and am looking forward to sharing my passion for reading. I particularly enjoy teaching English, reading and phonics, my favourite children's authors are Julia Donaldson and Roald Dahl. I also like keeping fit and staying healthy by going running and horse riding.

I completed my teacher training in Herefordshire and began my teaching career in a very small village school there. Since then I have taught in Malaysia, South Wales and Spain. I enjoy learning about and experiencing new cultures, learning new languages and making new friends. I am also very interested in conservation and incorporate this in to school life.

Best wishes

Ms Amy Walton

Transition

Over the course of the next few weeks, our new teachers will be sending out video messages to their classes for September. They are so excited to meet the children and will be inviting them to message them back on Class Dojo.



I am pleased to say that Mr Rob Pepper, Ms Rosina Kellman and all our fantastic support staff will be back with us in September. In addition, Miss Jess Alford and Mrs Hayley Harvey will be coming back during the year as additional teachers to the team so we will have lots of staff at school to support the learning of your children and make 2020-21 a brilliant year.

Best wishes

Mr Eddie Brown

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