

2.7.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Goodbye and Welcome!

We have reached July and it is the time of year when schools across the country have to say goodbye to some staff and hello to others. Children are wondering who their teacher will be next year and looking forward to end of term events.

In 2021-22, we will be reducing the number of classes from 7 to 6 because there are less children than usual arriving in Reception. The lower numbers starting in Reception next year is similar in many of the other primary schools in our Trust. In fact, this appears to be a trend in schools all over the country. This change means we will have a mixed Reception and Year 1 class in September. All the children will still have the education that is appropriate to their age as learning will be adjusted to the children's needs by the adults working with them. The children will have an incredible space to learn in as well as opportunities to benefit from the best things that both the Year 1 and Early Years curriculums have to offer.

A number of our staff are leaving us at the end of this year. I would like to say a big thank you to all of them for the contribution they have made to the school over the last 12-18 months. They have worked very hard to provide the best possible education to the children of Buckfastleigh at a very challenging time and will be sorely missed. Their positivity, expert knowledge and collaborative skills have benefited us and will be something they take on the next step of their career.

- Rob Pepper's secondment as Deputy Head is ending with the school. He is returning to Yealmpton as Headteacher in September and will be leading them through next year. We'd like to congratulate him on his promotion. Jess Alford, our Assistant Headteacher, will be continuing her role as part of the Senior Leadership Team in his place.
- Amy Walton is seeking a new challenge in education abroad. Having worked in schools overseas before, she is looking forward to the challenge and adventures ahead of her. This year, she has done an amazing job with our new Reception children and I'd like to thank her for her commitment and hard work.
- Jo Pen-Collings will be taking up a permanent teaching role at Yealmpton Primary School in September. She has made some fantastic relationships with both staff and children this year and seen the Year 5 class go from strength to strength. Well done and good luck to her.
- Charlotte Angell has come to the end of her contract with the school and has set herself a new goal of working abroad next year. As a newly qualified teacher, she has faced challenges head on and excelled this year, making sure her class make good progress and have fun doing it. I hope she enjoys her new adventures!
- Tina Wakley, who has been working as a TA in Year 4 since January, will be leaving us at the end of the year as she completes her contract. Her experience and skills have been a great addition to the team and we wish her well as she moves onto new ventures!

It is always sad when people leave but it is good to be able to say goodbye and know that the people you have worked with are taking the next step in their lives in a positive way. This also means we can welcome someone new to the school and with that in mind I would like to introduce you to the new teacher who will be starting with us in September.

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered

Hello!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a new teacher at Buckfastleigh Primary School. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children in September!

My name is Jordan O'Brien. I grew up in The New Forest in Hampshire and love going walking at the beach and in the forest. I like to be out in nature as much as possible, discovering new places and meeting new people! I especially enjoyed my trip to Pennywell Farm and loved holding the piglets. I also love baking. My favourite things to bake are cupcakes and gooey chocolate chip cookies.

I attended Plymouth University, where I completed my Primary Teaching degree with a mathematics specialism. I hope to pass my enthusiasm and love of learning to your children!

I am looking forward to a year full of fun, curiosity, excitement and questions! I can't wait to meet you all very soon!



Classes for 2021-22

Here are the class teachers for next year.

Year Group	Class Teacher	
Reception	Jess Alford and Hayley Harvey	Both of these teachers bring a wealth of experience and talent, having taught Reception and Year 1 classes for many years.
Year 2	Sarah Strong	Sarah is moving up with her class into Year 2. This will support the continuity of the learning for some of the youngest children in the school.
Year 3	Jordan O'Brien	Jordan will be bringing so much enthusiasm and passion into the school. We can't wait to see her working with such a lovely class.
Year 4	Dan Wase	As Dan moves into his second year of teaching, he will be leading PE across the school and helping to develop Wild Tribe.
Year 5	Sam Roberts	Sam moves back into Year 5 to work in a year group he has a lot of experience in. He is leading our Mastery Maths project.
Year 6	Emily Light	Emily can't wait to start working in Year 6 for the first time. Her passion for English and commitment to all children should help her class thrive in their last year of primary school.

On 15th-16th July, the children will be working with their new teachers for two days. This has been planned to support everyone's transition for September. If your child has additional needs, Rosina Kellman is working closely with their class teacher to ensure that they have an enhanced transition. Should you have any questions about the arrangements for next year, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a great weekend,

Eddie Brown

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