

SITHNEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Emma Stritt
Headteacher

03.06.19

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you all had a restful May half term and are ready for the second half of the Summer term.

I am writing with an update of staff and classes for September 2019.

First of all, I would like to share with you news from Mrs Hammond. Sadly for us, Mrs Hammond will not be returning to Sithney School in September. She has secured a new post in Falmouth. Of course, we will miss her immensely but wish her the very best for her new role. Mrs Hammond has taught for many years at Sithney and has been an integral part of the school's journey. She is a huge asset to our team of staff and will be greatly missed.

An advertisement for a teacher in Wonder Zone has gone out today, and we will keep you fully informed of any news.

This term we will be saying a huge thank you to Mrs Hesselbo and Mrs Kite, who have covered maternity leaves in Busy and Wonder Zones. They have been highly valued members of our school team and have slotted straight into the routines and ethos of our school. We welcome back Miss Sumpter in Busy Zone, who is due to return on 15th July; and Miss Bray in Wonder Zone, who is due to return on 27th June.

This year we will be welcoming 9 Reception pupils into Busy Zone. This is a smaller class than in previous years and with slightly less pupils on role, a new class structure is needed for September. This has been discussed at length with teaching staff and governors and also with the CEO and finance officer at the MAT, and it has been proposed that the class structure for 2019-20 will alter to the following:

Reception and Year 1 in Busy Zone with Miss Sumpter (Monday to Thursday) and Mrs Nisbet (on Friday).

Year 2 in Wonder Zone with Miss Bray and an appointment yet to be confirmed.

Year 3/4 in Smart Zone with Mr Birchall and Year 5/6 in Study Zone with Miss Neil will continue.

However, on Fridays we are looking at a new 3 class structure as follows:

Reception and Year 1 in Busy Zone with Mrs Nisbet.

Year 2/3 in Smart Zone with Mr Birchall.

Year 4/5/6 in Study Zone with Miss Neil.

Staff have spent time sharing this news with pupils today and discussing the changes and have confidence that the new class structure will have many benefits.

Small rural schools, in and beyond the MAT, often re-structure their mixed age classes. This can be for many reasons but mainly to suit year groups of different sizes and to suit the budget. Both of these reasons are applicable to Sithney and are the main reasons for this change. In September 2019, we will have 83 pupils on role. The government funds schools to have 30 pupils in a class so we are very fortunate to have had 4 classes for many years. By reducing to 3 classes for 1 day a week, it is hoped that the 4 class structure can be maintained for longer. The 3 class structure will work well on a Friday as Mr Birchall and Miss Neil will plan appropriate lessons to fit with the end of the week. We are also looking forward to the benefits that this will have with transition for Year 2 and Year 4 to their new class the following year.

Mixed year groups of various combinations have many benefits. There are some highly successful Reception and Year 1 classes in the MAT and it is found that this suits both year groups greatly. Reception pupils have the Year 1 pupils as role models for class and school routines. This helps them become school ready earlier on in the year and eases transition to year 1 at the end of the year. The year 1 pupils thrive on being the older pupils in the class whilst continuing to benefit from having a similar routine and a further year of access to adapted Early Year activities.

Meanwhile, we have a much larger cohort of Year 2 pupils and we believe it will be of great benefit for them to be in a Year 2 class for 4 days a week to focus on end of Key Stage 1 and being Key Stage 2 ready.

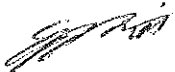
I hope this explained some of the reasons for these changes and anticipated benefits to the pupils.

I am sure many of you will have further questions, and I am more than happy to answer these. There will be an open meeting with parents/ carers on Thursday at 3:00pm in the hall to explain the changes and answer questions.

If you are not able to attend the meeting and have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to me either in person, when I am in school, or by phone or email, or call into the office to make an appointment to see me. I try to be at Sithney School on most Mondays and Thursdays.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Kind regards



Emma Stritt

Executive Headteacher