



Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School
Pot House Lane
Sheffield
S36 1EJ

Tel: 0114 2883109

Fax: 0114 2830204

E-mail: enquiries@stocksbridge-nur.sheffield.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.stocksbridge.eschools.co.uk/website>

Dear Parents, Carers & Guardians,

14th June 2019

~~CLASSES AND STAFFING FOR 2019-20~~

Where does the time go? It doesn't seem two minutes since I last wrote such a letter. But, it's that time of year again. We have not completely finalised all staffing or classes for September but I wanted to let you know what we have decided upon.

Each year we spend time deliberating on class organisation, as you know. Working with colleagues at the Junior School, we decided to leave our two Y2 classes as they move onwards and upwards. We are aware there have been some niggles over the year, but the children are maturing and we have worked hard with them to resolve issues around friendships. In addition, the Junior school's experience is that, sending the classes up as they are presently, means the children are all familiar with each other, they know how the class works etc and it gives them a better start. The visits to the Junior school have gone well and we know the children are looking forward to next week and spending three days up there. As we were walking back last time, I overheard one of the children say 'Well, it's like we are Y3's now!' Even after next week, we are continuing with transition work and have colleagues from the Junior school coming down to spend time with the children each week.

All current Nursery, Reception and Y1 children will be spending some time with their new teacher/s in their new rooms for several sessions the week beginning 17th June. Our Y2 children will spend time with staff during these sessions playing games, doing art etc.

We have decided to send our Y1 classes up to Y2 as they are. The classes have gelled and largely, the children get on. Our Y2 teachers will be Miss Rogers (in Class 3 with Class 3!), Mrs Heavens in Class 4 with the current Class 2 and Miss Palmer in Class 5 with the current Class 1.

We are finalising our classes for Year One and Reception as I type and as soon as we are completely happy with them we will let you know your child's class. This should be during the middle of next week, before they begin transition visits.

Our numbers in each year group are not consistent. Our actual intake number is 90 (and we will have almost that figure in Y2 next year). Until we reach this number in any year group, we are not considered full. In Year One in Sept 2019 we will have 64 children and in Reception 58. We need to ensure we have space to take in the children who will inevitably join us mid-year without having to suddenly make a new class and employ another teacher. So, next year we will have two Reception classes, a mixed Reception and Year One class and two Year One classes. Parents sometimes worry about school having a mixed class but, in all honesty, the range of needs does not differ





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from those within straight year group classes. Having taught mixed classes for 14 years before having a straight class, I know first-hand that this is the case. We have planned our curriculum so that all the children learn the same theme. We teach to the children's levels regardless of which class or year group they are in.

On Thursday afternoon, (11th July) school will be open from 3.15-4.15pm for you to visit your child's **new teacher and classroom** if you wish. It is a chance to say hello, see where he/she will be working and perhaps tell the new teacher one or two things about your child. We also have an open afternoon on the 2nd July, 3.15-4.15pm. This is a chance to speak with your child's **existing class teacher** before the end of the year. You will have received your child's end of year report by then and this is your opportunity to talk with them about it if you wish.

We have just one member of staff leaving us this year. Mr Dobbs is retiring in July. Mr Dobbs has been a teacher at Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School for the last 25 years. He's taught many of you I know and dare I say it, perhaps even your parents. School won't quite be the same but Mr Dobbs has done his time and is off to do more of the things he enjoys – DIY (which usually includes injuring a part of his body), mechanics – again which sometimes results in a plaster or two. He'll have time to follow his passion of drawing and painting - for himself and not just the children. We wish him a long, happy and safe retirement.

We have appointed Miss Katie Miles to teach in Reception from September. Katie did her placement with us a couple of years ago and was outstanding –and a lovely person to work alongside. Releasing Miss Miles, on Fridays, we have appointed a very experienced, skilled Reception teacher called Miss Lyn Tonks. Reception parents will have a chance to meet them on Tuesday at our Induction Evening.

Miss Denton is also going to be teaching more with us next year which we are delighted about. We are very grateful for the wonderful job she has done with Class 6 (and Mrs P and Mrs J) as well as wearing several hats each week covering different roles. It's been one of those years!

From September Mr Barker will be our Special Needs Co-Ordinator in school. Mrs Priest is handing over the reins. Mr Barker's passion, other than Rotherham United and his bike, is special needs and I know he will be a wonderful lead continuing the great work Mrs Priest has done for several years. Mrs Priest is also stepping down from her role as Assistant Headteacher; she wants to focus on being a teacher. Mr Barker will take over Mrs Priest's safeguarding role too. He's going to be busy!





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The table below shows who is teaching where next year.

| Class | Year Group | Teacher | Teaching Assistant Support |
|---------|--------------------|---|---|
| | Nursery | Mrs Hindmarch (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri) Mrs Taylor (Wednesday) | Mrs Jennings Mrs Parkes Mrs Schofield |
| Class 1 | Year 1 | Mr Barker (Mon, Thurs & Fri) Miss Denton (Tues & Wed) | Mrs Costello |
| Class 2 | Year 1 | Mrs Ollerenshaw – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning Mrs Greenwood – Wednesday p.m., Thursday, Friday | Mrs French |
| Class 3 | Year 2 | Miss Rogers | Mrs Darnill/Miss Cusack Miss Adam |
| Class 4 | Year 2 | Mrs Heavens Mrs Marsh on Wednesdays | Mrs Dronfield |
| Class 5 | Year 2 | Miss Palmer | Miss Cryer Miss Adam |
| Class 6 | Reception/Year One | Mrs Priest | TBC |
| Class 7 | Reception | Miss Miles (Mon- Thurs) Miss Tonks (Fri) | Mrs Newton |
| Class 8 | Reception | Miss Denton – Monday and Friday Mrs Hutchinson – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. | Miss Cowley |

As always, if you have any questions, please just ask.

Many thanks

Jane Townsend
 Headteacher

