

**Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Dear Parents,**

Classes for September 2021:

Nursery- Miss Storey and Mrs. Miller

Reception- Miss Dixon and Mrs Hill

Year 1- Mrs. McVittie and Mrs Dunn

Year 2- Miss Langley and Mrs Wheeler

Year 3- Mr. McVittie and Miss Carmichael (until Miss Moffett returns in April 2022)

Year 4- Mrs. Davis and Miss Foggon (until Mrs. Molenda returns in February 2022)

Year 5- Mrs. Usher and Mrs. McDonald

Year 6- Mrs. Mackley, Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs Welsh

**Changes to Staffing**

- Mrs. Clements is changing her career from September 2021 so will no longer be part of our staff team. We are sorry that Mrs. Clements is leaving St. Bede's after a relatively short time with us. We thank her for her work with the children, staff and parents, and wish her success and happiness in the future.
- I am delighted to tell you that Miss Langley will be staying with us next academic year and will be taking her Year 1 class up to Year 2 in September.
- Mrs. Usher will be a new teacher in Year 5 in September. Mrs. Usher has already visited the school and her new class, and we are very excited to welcome her to our staff team.
- Mrs. Kennedy will be teaching in Year 6 for part of the week with Mrs. Mackley. Mrs. Kennedy will increase the teaching capacity in Year 6 to give the children extra support in their last year.

**Year 6**

This has not been the end to the year that we wished for Year 6. However, we will be trying to make their last week at St. Bede's as enjoyable and memorable as possible. We all wish them happiness in their new secondary schools and hope that they will come back to visit us in their new uniforms during the autumn term. Thank you to those parents who will be leaving our school community too, we have appreciated your support and kindness over the years.

**Changes to Leadership**

As you know, Mrs. Devine has been appointed as acting headteacher from September 2021. I am very pleased to tell you that, earlier this week, Mrs. Mackley was appointed as acting deputy headteacher from September 2021. I feel very confident that St. Bede's School will continue to thrive under their leadership next year.

This is my last letter to you all this year as headteacher of St. Bede's Primary School. It has been the privilege of my career to be headteacher of this school community. There have been significant and memorable moments of pride in my career in education: taking the register of my first class of 36 Year 3 pupils at Redby Junior School in Sunderland in 1986; being appointed as a class teacher at St.

Bede's School in 1990 (in charge of PE and Music!); returning to St. Bede's School in 2005 after being appointed as headteacher; and leading the school to its outstanding Ofsted judgement in 2013 – a judgement which the school has since maintained. Of my 35 years working in education, 11 were spent as a teacher at St. Bede's, and 16 as the school's headteacher. St. Bede's, therefore, is my 'home', and where my heart has been and always will be. The children of St. Bede's, as well as the fabulous staff team with which I have been blessed over the years, have been my greatest source of pleasure and pride.

Some parents who attended St. Bede's Primary School, some of whom I have taught in the past, will remember an old school prayer:

'This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here.  
Let the rooms be full of joy.  
Let love live here, love of one another,  
Love of God, and love of life itself.  
Let us remember, that as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts make a school.'

This prayer always resonates with me because it expresses what makes St. Bede's School so special and so precious: it is a school made with the hearts of those who work and learn here.

I thank you all for your support and kindness over the last 16 years and more. I know Mrs. Devine will lead the school very well: I could not think of a better acting headteacher. I hope you will support her in her work for your children next year.

The school will close at the usual staggered times on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and will reopen on Tuesday September 7th. Mrs. Devine will be writing to you before the autumn term begins with arrangements for the beginning of the new school year.

Have a very happy summer holiday, with very best wishes,

Nicole Park

Headteacher