



Headteacher: Mrs Lindsay Robertson BA (Hons) NPQH

12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all very aware of the impact Coronavirus has had on our own lives, those around us and on the lives of the children. It has been a challenging time for us all and we have all been affected in some way – and sadly it is not over yet. At Willow Wood, myself and the staff are acutely aware of the impact the last two years have had on our children's physical and emotional development and well-being as well as their learning. Therefore, I am writing to you to explain some positive changes that I am making to staffing in school which will hopefully allow us to support the children to make up for lost learning during the pandemic.

When we appointed our new staff in September, we employed Miss Wright and Miss Bowman in a support capacity. However, both of them are qualified teachers. They decided to take support positions in school as they were keen to work in our school, with our children, and they have both settled in well and demonstrated their commitment to our children's development. We love having them as part of our team.

More recently, we have been given a small amount of funding from the DfE, called Recovery Premium, which we can allocate to support children to 'catch up' in their learning due to the pandemic. We have decided that we want to use this funding to pay for additional teachers to work across each key stage to support children in their learning. We have been doing this in KS2 since September with the additional teacher being Mrs Kirkland. Therefore, I am delighted to let you know that from 17<sup>th</sup> January, Miss Wright will be the additional teacher in Key Stage 1 and Miss Bowman in EYFS.

Miss Wright and Miss Bowman will both work with groups of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 across the week to support and challenge children in their learning so that they achieve the best that they can. Therefore, do not be surprised if the children come home and talk about these teaching staff and what they have been up too! The children will work with all staff in the setting across the course of the week but may be taken into smaller groups to complete their tasks and to give them a higher level of adult support. I am delighted to be able to provide the children with this opportunity to allow them to make accelerated progress within a supportive environment.

I am also delighted to welcome Ms Revell to the support staff team from 17<sup>th</sup> January. She has worked with us as a member of the lunchtime supervisor team however she is amazing with the children and she will move to work with the reception class to support children with Special Educational Needs as well as being additional support for learning in the class alongside Mrs Emily Mason (our Early Years Leader), Miss Bowman and Miss Baxter.

Watch out in the coming weeks for more additions to our amazing staff team as we further strengthen staffing moving forward. It is always our aim to make sure that our children get the education and the support that they deserve and all of our funding, time and attention is focused on ensuring the very best outcomes for them all.

If you have any questions about how staff in EYFS or KS1 will work, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mr Dawson, Miss Mullen or Mrs Mason.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Robertson

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