

Headteacher’s Monthly Update

**Budget/Staffing**

Although our budget is very challenging next year, we are still able to appoint additional part-time teachers for next year. We will have a temporary staffing structure next year so we can monitor changes we wish to trial during our change to full Primary status, and until we have clarity about pupil numbers going ahead, given uncertainty about other local provision.

Mrs Wilkinson will be reducing her teaching timetable from September, to three afternoons, prior to her retirement in January 2018. In the autumn term, she will be able to support our new Key Stage 1 teacher; teach Art and Creative Curriculum subjects across school and hopefully write our Christmas play!

Two part-time teachers will work additionally in Key Stage 2 classes. Decisions about subjects and classes taught will be made during the recruitment process, so as to have the most positive impact on the learning outcomes and pastoral needs of our pupils.

We will be welcoming any shortlisted candidates to look around school from next week. Interviews will take place on 10th May, with some Key Stage 2 pupils involved in the process.

**Buildings/Health and Safety**

From tomorrow (27th April), the builders will need to cordon off an area in front of the boiler house. This area will be worked on for about 1 week. We have a plan in place to deal with the reduced space for school transport:

* The parking bay behind the disabled one will become the temporary disabled bay, whilst the yellow marked bay will need to be used by the JT Private Hire minibus – this will be filled-up and leave first.
* The families of pupils on the Barron’s minibus have been informed that their bus will arrive later.
* The Travelsure bus has been requested to come 5 minutes earlier.

Please accept our apologies for this and take extra care whilst the minibuses are on site.

We are very happy with the rapid building progress and the support we have had from Compass Developments. The children are managing well with a little less play space and really enjoying seeing the daily developments.

**Monitoring**

I have just carried out some pupil writing moderation with Year 6 teachers from Morpeth and Ponteland schools. This was extremely reassuring, showing both that our curriculum provision is ready to cater for Year 6, as well as making sure that our Year 4 and 5 pupil writing is appropriately levelled and on track for end of Year 6 expectations.

**Homework**

I have been delighted to see a fantastic range of Viking homework being completed – thank you for your support with this, as well as any maths and English homework you have done with your child/children.

**Time Zone families** – just a reminder that an adult has to sign the pupil planners by each Tuesday, or it is a 5 minute break-time detention! (4 pupils had detention this week.)

Summer Term topic webs and expected attainment information is available in the ‘Curriculum’ section of the school website.

**Group photographs –**just a reminder that pupils will be having their form class photographs on Tuesday 2nd May (Monday 1st – Bank Holiday.)

Diane Lakey April 2017