



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

18/07/2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the summer term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support this year. I think that it is fair to say that our first "full year" in school since 2020 has not been without challenges. Storm Arwen brought with it significant damage to school; we are only now seeing significant progress with the roof. The good news is that the new roof comes with a 25-year guarantee!

We all know that we continue to experience the impact of COVID-19 on families, as well as staff in school. Staffing within school has certainly been a challenge this year. I am pleased that despite significant staff absences, we have not had to close school due to these shortages. I am pleased to be able to report that we are currently fully staffed for September 2022.

The past few years have, and are continuing to have, impact on our pupils, families and staff. We have noticed this with increasing numbers of pupils needing more, and higher levels, of pastoral support. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to change our current Head of Year structure within school. Currently the role of Head of Year includes three teaching members of staff. These staff do have additional time to discharge the Head of Year role, however they do teach a significant amount of the week. This means that these Heads of Year are not available to carry out that role when they are teaching in the classroom.

From September we have appointed 3 Heads of Year who do not have any teaching responsibilities. This will mean that they are available all day, every day of the week to pastorally support our pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Crampton, Mr Earl and Mrs Outen for their work as Heads of Year. They will each take up full time teaching roles in September. At the same time, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Head of Year team; Ms Atwater, Ms Kelly and Mr Gray will join Mrs Willetts and Mrs Osmond to make five non-teaching Heads of Year.

In addition, we have the following staff joining us in September. I am sure that you will extend a warm welcome to all.

Ms Gourlay	Lead Practitioner for Maths
Ms Storey	Teacher of PE
Ms Hutchieson	Teacher of PE
Ms Guzman	Teacher of Spanish
Ms Snaith	Administration Assistant/Receptionist
Ms Taylor	Pupil Behaviour and Intervention Worker



We need to say a fond farewell to the following staff who leave us at the end of this term.

Ms Stebbing	Second in English
Ms Dunne	Pupil Behaviour and Intervention worker
Ms Brown	Learning Support Assistant

We wish them good luck as they embark on the next stage of their career.

You will no doubt have noticed the scaffolding around the school building. We are hopeful that the roof will be finished part way through the summer break. During the summer we are also having the main hall floor replaced. If you recall, it was damaged when contractors cut through the underfloor heating systems. Finally, with regard to building works, we are upgrading our main sets of toilets near the Bistro and above near the science block. This is not only to give them a much-needed facelift, but to also create accessible toilets which are inclusive to all. The open plan access to these individual toilet cubicles will make them much more user friendly. We are also going to be reviewing our processes to enable greater pupil access to toilets during the school day.

The Government have announced that to support families who are in receipt of free school meals, a one-off payment of £60 will be made to help with the costs of food over the summer break. The school finance team will be in touch to explain how and when these payments will be made. If you have any queries, please contact us using the contact us section of the school website ([CLICK HERE](#)).

School **closes for the summer break at the usual time of around 1.30 pm. On Friday 22 July**, and re-opens for the **start of the Autumn term on Wednesday 7 September**. As usual, we will have a staggered start to enable our new Y7 pupils to find their feet before the rest of the school arrive. Further details regarding the new term will be sent out during the summer break.

During school holidays, the school office operates with a very reduced staffing capacity. If you do need to contact school, please use the general contact us page of the school website ([CLICK HERE](#)). Your query will be dealt with as soon as practicable, but please be aware that this might be the start of the new term. School will be closed to all during weeks two and three of the summer break.

Finally, please look out for our electronic school newsletter which will be out at the end of this week.

I wish everyone a restful summer break. I hope that you and your family find some time to relax and unwind.

Yours Faithfully



Mr. D. Airey
Headteacher

