



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 3TF
Tel: (01707 324408)

Email: admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. D. Abrahams

Friday 3rd July, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter the final straight of this summer term, I thought I would share with you some important news about the school for the coming academic year.

Goodbye Mrs Hill and Mrs Pavlou:



We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Mandie Hill and Mrs Maria Pavlou at the end of this school year. Mrs. Hill, who joined the school back in 2007, has been a key member of our support staff, in her dual role as both a teaching assistant and a lunchtime supervisor. In her time at Our Lady's, she has worked in all three Key Stages over the past 13 years and is very well known by all of our families. The pastoral care that she has provided the children with in her time at the school is second to none. Mrs. Hill is an incredibly popular member of the team, amongst children, staff and parents alike, and she will be sorely missed.

Mrs Pavlou, one of our Nursery teachers, has also sadly decided to move to pastures new. Mrs Pavlou worked incredibly hard in our Nursery class this year and has demonstrated that she is a driven, organised and extremely dedicated member of our teaching staff who has consistently developed inspiring relationships. She formed a great rapport with the children in the Nursery class and has demonstrated her commitment to providing the very best teaching and learning opportunities for them.

On behalf of the staff, governors and pupils of the school, I would like to thank both Mrs. Hill and Mrs Pavlou for their dedicated service to Our Lady Catholic Primary School and we wish them both the very best of luck in their future endeavours.

Welcome Mrs Avery:



We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Leann Avery to our staff team, who will be joining us as a Year 1 class teacher this September. Mrs Avery is very excited to start at our school. She has been teaching for 10 years and brings to the role a wealth of experience and creativity. I am sure you will join me and the rest of the school community in making Mrs Avery feel very welcome when you meet her in September.

Welcome Back Miss McDonald:



We are also delighted to be welcoming Miss McDonald back to school in September, after her maternity leave. Miss McDonald will be taking on the role of our new Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). We are very much looking forward to Miss McDonald undertaking her new role and providing vital additional support to targeted pupils across the school.

Transition and Staffing for 2020/21 (in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic):



The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown has been an unprecedented situation in modern times. It is hard to gauge the full impact that the situation has had (and possibly is continuing to have) on children's mental health and wellbeing. Our children's experiences of the lockdown period will have been very varied. From the feedback that we have received, for most of our children, it has predominantly been a safe and enjoyable time. However, for others, it may have been more challenging or traumatic for

a number of different reasons. As a school, our staff team are used to supporting our children through any challenges that they face in life and they have shown that they are very good at doing this - we will, of course, continue to do this in September.

The sudden and unprecedented changes that the lockdown imposed on everyone are likely to have left many of our children feeling uncertain about the future. For some, this may be a fear of a second lockdown, for others it may be a general sense that things that used to feel safe and predictable, such as school, may no longer be something they can rely on. With this in mind, and to support the children's transition to the next year group, we have ensured that pupils in Years 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be taught once again by their class teacher from this year – to eliminate any extra anxieties they may have about meeting a 'new' class teacher. We will also arrange for the class teachers to telephone the children in the final week of the term to help further support their transition. This will provide the children with the opportunity of having a 'one-to-one' chat with their teachers (which may be less over-whelming than a whole class online 'Zoom' meeting). It will also provide children with an opportunity of asking any questions about what school will be like in September. Unfortunately, we are unable to deliver a fuller transition program in school (as we have done in previous years) with the current social distancing rules in place. As ever, it has been important to us that any return to school has been always carefully planned with the children's and staff's safety being our primary concern and priority.

As previously mentioned, we are welcoming Mrs. Avery to our Year 1 class for September and Mrs Wilson will be teaching the Year 4 class (current Year 3 class). We will be providing a separate transition morning or afternoon for these pupils in the final week of term as these children have a new teacher. A letter will be sent to the families of children in these classes to explain how the transition sessions will work early next week.

An online Zoom meeting will also take place for parents and carers of children who are joining our Nursery and Reception on **Tuesday 14th July at 6.30pm**. This meeting will be led by Mrs Ferrin, our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) leader, and will provide parents and carers with an opportunity of asking any questions about the Nursery or Reception classes at our school. We are also in the process of creating a video of the EYFS classrooms and outdoor areas for parents to show their children. This will be particularly beneficial to children who are new to the school and it will be sent to our Nursery and Reception parents next week.

We hope that by putting all of these measures in place, we are able to provide children with a solid foundation with which to build upon over the summer holidays as they prepare for their return to school in September. Our aim is to also reduce (as much as we possibly can) the anxiety that children may be experiencing about returning – especially those who have been at home since the school closures in March.

Similarly, in September, the return to school may be the first contact that children have had with each other in many weeks. Launching straight back into the usual timetable is likely to be challenging, as many of our children have had a long period of time away from the usual daily routine. They may also have lots of thoughts and questions about the time away from school. Of course, there is also a need to make sure children begin catching up on work they have missed, which is a predominant focus by the government. Gradually phasing in lessons, balancing more academic lessons with creative and vocational ones, is an approach that we are likely to undertake. We will be in communication with you again once we have had further guidance on this from the Department for Education.

Please see below for a list of the teaching responsibilities for the next academic year.

Class	Teaching Team
Nursery	Mrs Sweet (4 days) and Miss Bunnage (1 day) Mrs Staniforth
Reception	Mrs Ferrin Miss N. Lee and Miss Bunnage
Year 1	Mrs Avery (4 days) and Miss Bunnage (1 day) Mrs Green
Year 2	Mrs Weaver Mrs O'Donnell
Year 3	Miss Pearce Miss Gorman
Year 4	Mrs Wilson Ms. Moore Shields
Year 5	Mrs Valentine Mrs V Hill
Year 6	Mrs Lee (3 days), Mr Abrahams, (2 days) Mrs Hobbs

As always, we thank you for your continued support and co-operation in these unprecedented and challenging times. Should you have any further questions regarding the information in this letter please do not hesitate to ask. We have truly missed our children and families very much and we look forward to seeing you all again as one entire community.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Richard Curry

