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Head of School
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Executive Head Teacher
Celia Smith *BEd (Hons)*



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on some important information about staffing and leadership at Westdale Junior School. As you are aware, we conducted Headteacher interviews at the end of last half term. The Executive Leadership team and Chair of Governors took the decision not to appoint from the pool of candidates we interviewed on the day. We felt they did not match with what our vision for Westdale is- to be a transformational school, that has excellence at the heart of everything it does

As a result, the decision was made to restructure the leadership team to provide some much-needed stability for the children, the school and our community until the end of this academic year. As from 31st October 2022, Ruth Kyle, (currently Deputy Headteacher), will be Head of School and will be in post until 31st August 2023. It is important to note that the role of Head of School is slightly different from Headteacher in a number of ways. The main difference is that Celia Smith, our Nova Primary Executive Headteacher, will be playing a greater role in the strategic direction of the school. She will be based at Westdale most Mondays and Fridays to support Ruth with the strategic experience in driving school improvement linked to the school's mission, vision and values.

Also joining the Westdale team, will be Elaine Thornhill, whose role is Strategic Lead in Quality of Education. Elaine will be supporting Ruth with embedding the curriculum we offer across school and improving teaching and learning across the school, to ensure at Westdale all of our children are challenged. She will be based at our school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Donna Chambers, who has provided fantastic support with developing the curriculum since Easter will still be supporting the school in a consultancy capacity until January.

Dan Ring remains in post as Assistant Headteacher and Sarah James continues her role as SENDCO and as part of the Senior Leadership Team.

Changes in Year 3

This restructure means that Ruth Kyle will no longer be teaching in Class 3KT. Teaching in Year 3 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be Sarah James. As well as being our SENDCO, Sarah is an extremely experienced member of the Westdale team and we feel confident that this decision will benefit our Year 3 children. Parents have already been informed that Kate Lindsey will be teaching in this class for 2 days a week to replace Claire Thompson who left at the end of last term. Kate has worked at Westdale since Easter last year and, again, knows the school well.

We appreciate that this is another change for parents to get used to after a period that has already seen many changes. We hope that you understand that this decision has been made to ensure stability and continuity for our children, our staff and our community. Should you have any questions, please do feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

The Senior Leadership Team