St Chad's Church of England Primary School

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Acting co-Heads of School:
Mr J Routh & Mrs S Collier

Dear Parents/Carers

Update from Mrs Marsland

I wanted to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to have some time at St. Chad's over the last few weeks. I can genuinely say that from the very moment I put my foot through the door for a governor's meeting it felt like 'coming home'. There was definitely something missing that evening though, your wonderful children. The children some of whom I recognise and remember have been absolutely fantastic. They really are a credit to your all and I look forward to getting to know them better.

One of my favourite times of a school day is being on the gate welcoming you and your children. Many of you will have seen me there already. Thank you to everyone who has taken time to say hello and to welcome me. With the families I know already it has been great to re-connect although hearing that the children I taught at St. Chad's are now at university has certainly aged me!!

Working together as a community is key. I am a visible leader and place much importance on developing strong relationships with all stakeholders. Effective communication is a key to developing these relationships and I will be looking from the outset at how we as a school community can communicate with you effectively.

I am also acutely aware of how supportive you are all of your children, and how engaged you are with their education and development. A key priority will also be looking at ways for us to ensure you feel well-informed about your child's learning and looking for opportunities for informal drop-ins to class or school to celebrate their successes.

I know that this term there have been challenges with staffing which has meant that in some classes supply teachers have been used more than we would ordinarily want to. I know Mr Routh has shared some news about staffing with you already, but I just wanted to re-assure you that we have had a strong recruitment drive this half term and are pleased to report that we have three new staff starting in January:

Miss Katie Juckes	New Year 3 Class Teacher
Mrs Hazel Nicholls	Nursery teacher (end of the week) and job share with Mrs McMaster. Mrs Nicholls will be providing PPA cover in reception and KS1
Mrs Rachel Swiers	PPA cover mainly in KS2.

With Miss Juckes joining us in January, Mrs Niemczyk will return to her substantive role which means she will provide PPA cover throughout school. Mr Routh will be returning to his substantive role also as Strategic Improvement Lead. He will continue to work at St. Chad's for two days per week in this capacity, and will be supporting me in continuing to drive improvements in the quality of teaching and learning.

We hope you will agree that these appointments are positive step and will go some way to addressing concerns around the use of supply staff. There are times of course where the use of supply is unavoidable. Where this is necessary, we try firstly to use Mrs Jayde Borrmann who is employed by the Trust to work across all primary schools to provide cover where needed. We also work closely with a number of supply agencies and will request our preferred supply teachers.

I am pleased to share with parents of children in year three and nursery, that in the new year we will be arranging 'meet the teacher' sessions with Miss Juckes and Mrs Nicholls. We will share dates with you when these have been finalised.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in January. In the meantime, I would just like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Kind regards



Gina Marsland