



23 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Re: Staffing changes at Downs Infant School

It is the mark of a healthy school to have staff mobility. Over the last two years we have benefitted from being able to recruit some fantastic teachers and TAs and I know children and grown-ups appreciate their skills, knowledge and passion. However, great staff who value challenge and who have much to give do move on, and it is with mixed feelings that I write to advise you of some forthcoming changes.

Premises

Mr Button has worked across both Downs Juniors and Downs Infants for many years, but after Christmas will be exclusively employed by the Junior school and we have recruited a new Caretaker, David Standing, who starts in January.

Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion

Jon Hughes has been appointed as Senior SEN Specialist Teacher and Early Years Team Manager for Brighton and Hove Inclusion Service after Christmas. The positive impact he has been able to have on pupils in our school will now be wider across the City. We are in the process of recruiting to fill his very large shoes, and I have been showing prospective applicants round the school over the past couple of weeks which is quite exciting. In the meantime, from January, Mrs Flitton will be acting up as Inclusion Co-ordinator and Miss Hoten will be our Designated Safeguarding Lead. During times when Miss Hoten has to be out of class for this, **Seahorses** will have Mrs Byrne, and I am finalising arrangements for **Kingfishers** at the moment. We are fortunate that we have a skilled and willing staff who can help us through this transition period. Thank you to Mrs Flitton and Miss Hoten.

Reception – Starfish

Miss Jones has also been recruited to a wider role outside school. In January she will be taking up a position as an Infant Mental Health Practitioner for Brighton and Hove. Miss Cargill will be our EYFS lead, a role she has done before, and Mr Cowley will be the Starfish teacher.

We wish all our Downs Infants ‘alumni’ the very best and look forward to working with new colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Hildi Mitchell, Headteacher

