

Dear Families

Staffing and Classes - September 2023

I am delighted to announce details of staffing and classes for September. We are excited about the changes and hope you can see that the children's best interests are at the forefront of our decisions. Please look at the whole Federation staffing structure for next academic year.

Transition

The children will spend the morning in their new classrooms with their new teachers on Monday 17th July 2023. During the morning, teachers will participate in a range of activities that will enable them to get to know your child/ren. We very much hope that this morning will enable the children to start the important process of adapting to their new classes and new teachers.

Mixed classes

Due to numbers, this year we will have to change the class structure at both Mary Howard and St Andrew's. It will be as follows:

Mary Howard	Class structure	Teacher	Number in Class
Class 1	Year 1 & Year 2	Mrs Orgill (DHT)	12
Class 2	Year 3 & Year 4	Mr Buckley	13
Class 3	Year 5 & Year 6	Miss Warner	18
Teaching Assistants	Mr Morley (HLTA & Wrap around), Miss Roberts (one to one)		
Office	Miss Bolton and Mrs Boag		

St. Andrew's	Class structure	Teacher	Number in Class
Class 1	Reception & Year 1	Mrs Gray	15
Class 2	Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4	Mrs Bennett (DHT)	14
Class 3	Year 5 & Year 6	Mr Finn	16
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Wardale (HLTA), Mrs Watkins (TA), Mrs Long (one to one)		
Office	Mrs Jacks		

As you can see, the class sizes are well-below National average, which means that every child in our Federation gets the very best care, education and time. We will continue to review this year on year and ensure that classes are organised in a way that leads to optimum learning. We understand this can be an anxious time for parents and would like to reassure all that our decisions have been carefully considered and based on the best interests of the children. As with any change, it will take time to adjust but as ever we would encourage you to be positive and reassure your child.

Leadership

In order to strengthen the leadership structure across the Federation, we now have the opportunity to have two deputy heads (DHT), one based at each school. Mrs Bennett will continue to be based at St. Andrew's as Deputy Head.

After an internal recruitment drive, we congratulate Mrs Orgill on her successful interview and welcome her to the role of Deputy Head at Mary Howard. Mrs Orgill has previous experience of this role and is already supporting the Senior Leadership Team with her knowledge and expertise as a leader.

Staff Leaving

At the end of this term, we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Kendrick and Miss Shutts, who have been our upper Key Stage 2 team. Both are moving onto new adventures. Miss Shutts is moving to Shenstone Lodge, to pursue a career supporting children with behavioural and emotional needs whilst Mrs Kendrick will start her part retirement and begin tutoring.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Rigby, who has been supporting Class 1 at Mary Howard as a teaching assistant. We thank her for her support and commitment.

On behalf of the whole of the Mease community, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to these members of staff for everything they have done to support the learning and development of the children in their classes. I would also like to wish them the best of luck for their future endeavours.

Staffing for next year

I am delighted to inform you that we have successfully appointed two new teachers for September. Mr Finn and Mrs Gray. Both are experienced teachers and have a wealth of knowledge to further enhance teaching and learning across our Federation.

We have appointed Miss Roberts to support learning as a one to one in the mornings and cover lunchtimes at Mary Howard. She is an experienced teaching assistant with lots of expertise in supporting children with special educational needs.

As you may be aware, Miss Bolton from Mary Howard is expecting a baby in October. To ensure that there is a smooth transition, we have appointed Mrs Boag as the administration assistant and front of house at Mary Howard. We look forward to welcoming her in September where she will work alongside Miss Bolton to learn the ropes prior to her maternity leave. A huge congratulations to Miss Bolton and Mr Morley. We cannot wait to meet the new baby.

I am extremely excited about the great learning opportunities that await your children across the Mease Federation next year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.
Kind regards

Miss Rachel Mills

Executive Headteacher of the Mease Federation