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NEWSLETTER

Spring Term No 8

Monday 11th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Changes

It is with mixed feelings that I am writing to you with information about two changes in staff that will take place after Easter; there is sadness to be losing valued and well respected colleagues, but also happiness that they are both leaving Seven Mills in order to move on to new and exciting stages in their lives.

Miss Rosborough

Miss Jenny Rosborough has notified me that she will be retiring at the Easter holidays, after 35 years' service as a teacher at Seven Mills. Her retirement is well deserved, but she will be sorely missed, and her retirement in some ways marks the end of an era for our school. She has touched the lives of so many children and families over the years, and she has stood by the community through a great many changes on the Isle of Dogs. When the time comes, I do hope that as many parents as possible will join with staff in giving Miss Rosborough a fantastic send-off. As a school we have been very fortunate indeed to have had such long-serving and committed staff, and there are many families on the Barkantine Estate in which more than one generation has been taught by Miss Rosborough.

After Easter, Miss Rosborough's class responsibility in Year 4 will be taken over by Mrs Ghazala Abbas, who will be the class teacher for the rest of the school year. Mrs Abbas already knows the class, and I am very grateful to her for the continuity of teaching and learning that she will provide for the children.

Mr Johnston

Mr Tom Johnston has also given his notice to leave Seven Mills at Easter. He too will be a great loss to the school, though we are delighted at his news that he has been promoted to be Head of School at Micheldever Primary School in Hampshire; his promotion is also well deserved – and well timed. Mr Johnston and his wife are expecting their first child in the spring and are relocating to Hampshire to be closer to family.

Reception Class will therefore also have a new teacher after Easter – and I am very grateful to Mrs Shopna Khan for agreeing to be our Reception teacher for the rest of the school year. As with Year 4, we are very fortunate to have a teacher 'in house' who can take over the class responsibility.

PTO



Sad News

I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of Mrs Linda Bayford, who up until about eight years ago was a teaching assistant of many years' service at Seven Mills, and who until recently lived close to school. Her funeral will be held this Wednesday, and I will be attending to represent the school along with a number of colleagues who worked alongside Linda.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Many of you have already signed up for meetings with class teachers on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** after school this week. If you haven't yet made an appointment, please do so. We are now already mid way through the school year, and these meetings are a valuable opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress.

Special Australian Sharing Assembly

Parents are warmly invited to join us for a special sharing assembly on **Friday** this week at 2.45. As you know, the children have been learning about Australia for their whole-school topic since January, and we have already seen some super work in Year 2's assembly last week, and in the Nursery and Reception Museum on Friday afternoon. It was great to have so many parents come into school to celebrate the children's achievements – do join us again this Friday for artwork, writing, singing and lots more.

Half Term Holiday

We break up on Friday 15th February for the half term holiday. School begins again on Monday 25th February.

With best wishes,

Mike Hirst
Headteacher