

# Water Primary School

## Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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**Headteacher: Miss E. McKay**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024,

Dear Families,

After speaking with some parents, I wanted to extend further communication to you all regarding recent changes within Acorn class.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the recent concerns that have been raised. I understand that staff absence can be unsettling for children, and our aim is always to minimise change as far as possible. Using familiar staff is the best way of doing this. In our Reception class there are always at least two adults attached to the class each morning and extra staff in addition to this in the afternoon. Throughout the period of change and absence by Mrs Smith, I, along with Mrs Edington and Miss Ashworth have worked closely alongside Mrs Greenwood and any additional supply staff, including Miss Astin, to ensure continuity of children's learning remains. We want all children, even our youngest learners, to be resilient and adaptable and able to cope with change.

Most absence is unplanned and short-term. Our priority is to ensure cover and to make sure the person taking the class is fully briefed and prepared. Unfortunately, as a school, when a teacher absence may be longer than short term, I am only able to share information with parents when I also have this information. Please be assured that I will always, and have always, communicated with parents swiftly about ongoing changes that are within my remit. Regarding staffing and securing a cover teacher, I felt that a more robust selection process was necessary to ensure we have an excellent teacher, who meet the high expectations of teaching and learning that we require. Unfortunately, we are currently working amidst a national recruitment and retention crisis; with this, it has created challenges to find suitable supply teachers who are available to commit to long term placements. Going forward during this half term; in the case that Mrs Smith's absence extends, I also felt it was crucial that we were able to secure a teacher who has been highly recommended and is able to commit to a long-term placement. Therefore, over the Easter break, when I received notification that there would be an extension of Mrs Smith's absence, the provisional plan I had created in the last week of the Spring half term, could then be officially put into place. Please understand, that I can only communicate plans with parents when they have been officially confirmed. I am thrilled that Miss Astin has started with us and she will be featuring in our newsletter this Friday so that all our children and parents can get to know her better.

I can only apologise for the misunderstanding of P.E. days, as I am sure you are able to understand, occasionally we make errors in our communication. It is important for us to acknowledge and rectify these mistakes promptly, which we did on the Monday after realising the miscommunication. I take full responsibility for the oversight in providing the incorrect dates for the P.E. sessions and assure you that we will take necessary steps to prevent such errors in the future. Again, please accept my apologies on this matter as I am aware of the frustrations it can cause.

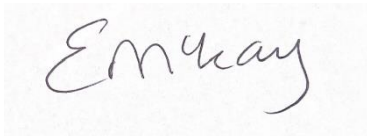
In matters of the removal of dojo, it was originally used as a rewards system however as we do not use dojo points, as a school, we made the decision that we would have one centralised system. This is our school website which is always used to inform parents of class learning. We will be updating the website regularly with what your children are learning and with key information. We also share wonderful learning on our social media channels such as X, Facebook and Instagram and will text out key information. In addition to this, the newsletter is sent out each Friday and includes key dates and further information. We will continue to update this weekly with what Acorn class have been up to this week. Miss Astin is out on the door each morning and at the end of the school day if you need to speak with her directly.



Miss Astin has had a wonderful week in school getting to know your children. Throughout the week they have engaged in the story, Giraffe's Can't Dance, and have completed some character exploration around the main character, Gerald and even learnt some of his super dance moves. They have been using building blocks to extend their learning in number and have been creating 3D models all whilst ensuring they follow their own interests through continuous provision. The summer term is always exciting due to the enhanced opportunities for our children and this will not be any different for our Acorn children. There will be a stay and play organised, a class trip as well as sports week.

I hope this clears up any miscommunication and uncertainty and of course, I will endeavour to keep you updated with further updates as soon as I am able. If you have any concerns, please ring the school office and a member of SLT would happily arrange a meeting.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "EmKay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss E. McKay

Headteacher