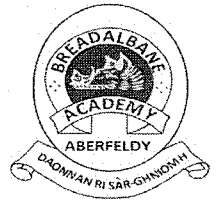


23rd March 2018
(JD/KL)



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer

Primary Staffing Update

Parents will be aware that the primary has experienced a range of long-term staff absences in the period since Christmas. As we move towards the end of term, I write now to update you on the current staffing situation in the primary department.

I am pleased to say that most staff – teachers and pupil support assistants - who were absent have now returned to work, which has significantly alleviated the challenges that we are experiencing.

I can also confirm that Mrs Seward will be returning to work from the start of next term and will be taking on the P2 class for the remainder of the session. Mrs Seward will be returning to a working pattern of four days a week until summer, and Mrs Boyd in P4 will continue on a similar pattern.

For term 4 we have also secured the services of Mrs Maureen Rowan, a very experienced primary teacher who has worked with us before, and it is currently planned that she will pick up the fifth day's teaching for both Mrs Seward and Mrs Boyd.

I am sorry to say that Mrs Nicola Thomas will be leaving us at the end of this term. I would like to thank her for the excellent work she has done in our primary and wish her the very best for the future. Mrs Rowan will also pick up the duties undertaken to date this session by Mrs Thomas.

Parents will also be aware that Mrs Marshall, Depute Headteacher, has been absent for the majority of this term and this absence is ongoing. Until such time as Mrs Marshall returns, Mrs Jenkins will continue in the role of Acting-Depute, and I am pleased to say that I have also been able to appoint Mr Liney to the post of Acting-Principal Teacher to provide some additional management capacity in the primary department.



Education & Children's Services
Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) Sheena Devlin



On a general note, it is at this time of year that parents often begin to ask us about likely class combinations and teacher allocations for the new session. Whilst I appreciate that parents are keen to find out about this, it is worth saying that it will not be until much later in the session that such decisions will take place, as there is little point in beginning this process until we are fairly certain both of likely staffing and pupil numbers. We will, of course, let you know as soon as we can, but final decisions can seldom be reached and therefore communicated until close to the end of session.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their patience and their support during this difficult time for the primary department, and also to express my enormous gratitude to the primary staff, for their perseverance, resilience and general positivity during what has been a very challenging few months for us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Devine
Headteacher