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(JD/EN)

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Dear Parent/Carer

Staffing and Planning for Primary GME Classes

As promised, I write to update you on the arrangements that we have made for our primary GME provision in the light of ongoing staff absence.

Although Mr Poole continues to be absent, we are in the fortunate position of having Mrs Menzies, our other GME teacher, available to us five days a week, and have also been able to re-secure the services of Mrs MacDonald - a very experienced GME teacher - on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. In addition, to this we have taken the decision to redeploy Mr O'Siadhail, our secondary Gaelic teacher, to primary for the majority of the day on Fridays.

As a result, we are in the positive position of having two Gaelic teachers available for four out of five days, as well as a Gaelic PSA for three days out of five. Finally, we will continue to call on Mrs Morton, our primary Pupil Support Teacher, who also has a knowledge of Gaelic, to support the class where possible.

In order to put staff time to the best use, we will continue to maintain a degree of flexibility about how staff are deployed and when the classes are taught as a P1-7 composite or in their pre-existing P1-3 and P4-7 classes. There are some key principles, however, that I felt it would be worth sharing with you:

Oversight and Planning

In order to ensure consistency and coherence in planning for all pupils, I have asked Mrs Menzies to take on responsibility for the medium and long-term planning for all GME pupils. She will be supported in this by the head of primary, Mrs Marshall. Mrs MacDonald will of course continue to support with day-to-day planning.



Point of Contact for Parents

In most cases, Mrs Menzies will also become the first point of contact for parents, though there will be certain pupils with additional support needs for whom a separate point of contact will previously have been identified. As always, parents are also able to get in direct contact with Mrs Marshall or me if they would prefer.

Class Organisation

As mentioned earlier, we will continue to teach the two GME classes together and separately, depending on planned activities and staff availability. There will continue to be an element of flexibility about this, but for the majority of Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, the classes will be taught separately, with Mrs Menzies teaching P1-3 and Mrs MacDonald teaching P4-7, in the context of overall high-level planning being undertaken by Mrs Menzies. On Thursdays, the class will be taught as a composite by Mrs Menzies, and Mrs McSween will support pupils in groups or 1:1. As we are just introducing Mr O'Siadhail into primary GME from Friday this week, Mrs Menzies will teach all pupils together on that day, supported by Mr O'Siadhail. As this collaboration develops, it may be the case that we will consider teaching the P1-3 and P4-7 classes as discrete classes for some of the day on Fridays, but no decision has yet been taken in this regard.

I hope this provides you with some clarity on how we intend to ensure a coherent and robust learning experience for all GME pupils, despite current staffing challenges. Please do get in touch with the school if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



John G Devine

Headteacher/Campus Leader

