



# The Priory Church of England Primary School

***Inspiring all to learn, flourish and achieve***

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Dear Parents / Carers,

## **September staffing arrangements - important update**

One of the strengths of Priory School is that we have gained a strong reputation for growing and developing our staff, as well as our pupils. I am writing to inform you that more members of our team have been successful in acquiring new positions from September.

As well as being pleased for the individuals who deserve these new roles, I am aware that this news may be greeted with mixed emotions. This year has seen a large number of staff changes.

Myself, Mrs Richardson and the governors have discussed our future plans and we remain very excited by the coming year. The school's culture and ethos will not change, even if some of our personnel do. Mrs Richardson has asked that I share this personal message from her:

*"I just wanted to briefly express my huge delight at being successfully appointed as the new headteacher of the Priory School from September 2023. It is a great privilege to be given the opportunity to serve as the school's next headteacher and I am very excited to build on the current success. I have had a connection with the Priory School since Mr Ruffle's appointment in 2018 and I have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with many of the staff and develop a strong understanding of the school's philosophy and direction. Despite some changes to our staffing team, I am excited at the prospect of growing new leaders and welcoming experienced, talented teachers to our school. With such a committed and creative team alongside me, I know that we can ensure a smooth transition for all the children and families.*

*I am a leader who leads from the heart, is guided by the values and vision of the school and places the learning and well-being of all pupils at the centre of my leadership. I am very much looking forward to meeting each of your children, knowing them by name and helping them to flourish. On each visit to the Priory School, I have been given the warmest welcome from your children and they have always demonstrated exemplary behaviour and a resilient and enthusiastic attitude to learning.*

*I look forward to meeting you too and working with you all in the coming months and years. Together we can continue to enable each generation to learn, flourish and achieve in our caring, Christian community.*

## **Members of staff who are leaving in the summer**

### **Mrs Fidge**

Mrs Fidge has secured a dream role as the Head of Juniors at one of the most prestigious British schools in the world.



The British School in Amsterdam is over 40 years old and delivers a world class education to 1,100 pupils. I am delighted that Mrs Fidge's commitment to delivering a holistic education for each child has been recognised and this is a fabulous achievement.

As Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Fidge has worked tirelessly alongside me at Priory School for 2 years and she has been an ever-present support and giver of sound advice. I know that she will be greatly missed by all of us, but particularly children who can find school overwhelming or challenging at times. We all wish her Gouda Luck!

### **Miss Webber**

Miss Webber will be joining the team at Ringwood Juniors from September. Miss Webber was my first teacher appointment back in September 2018 and she has been a key part of the school's improvement journey over the last 5 years. Miss Webber currently teaches in Year 2 and she is also responsible for PSHE, Relationships, Health and Sex Education, History and Geography, School Council and our Global Neighbours work.



To say she will also be another huge loss is an understatement, but I know she will be really appreciated in her new school.

### **Mrs Jennings**

Mrs Jennings came back to Priory last year after taking some time out to support her family. She is leaving Priory this summer to support children who are not able to learn in a mainstream school setting. Mrs Jennings is brilliant at providing this alternative education and I look forward to seeing how she develops this work over time.

## **New Leadership Structure for 2023-24**

Given the time of year, it is not possible to recruit a new Deputy Headteacher for September. Instead, we have created two acting Assistant Headteacher roles for the next 12 months. This allows time for Mrs Richardson to more fully understand the needs of the school before committing to a permanent model.

**Miss Field and Mr McLean, who have been working in a leadership capacity for much of this year, will be our two acting Assistant Headteachers and they will also share the teaching responsibilities in Year 6.**

Mrs Russell, who has been in post since April as our new SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) will have a wider role as Inclusion leader, supporting all SEND children and their families.

### **Senior Leadership Team 2023-24**

Mrs Sarah Richardson - Headteacher

Mr Matt McLean - Assistant Headteacher (acting) and Class 6 teacher

Miss Jenna Field - Assistant Headteacher (acting) and Class 6 teacher

In addition:

Mrs Sarah Russell - SENCO

These 4 named members of staff will also be the new Child Protection and Safeguarding team.

## New roles for 2023-24

### **Mrs Colebeck - Sports and PE HLTA**

We have revived the role of a Sports and PE HLTA for 12 months, while Mrs Miller takes her maternity leave. We are delighted that Mrs Colebeck will promote and develop Physical Education and School Sport at Priory School. Mrs Colebeck will deliver cover lessons to a variety of classes, arrange teams to attend sporting competitions and provide some extra curricular clubs.

## New staff joining the team

We have recruited two new fantastic teachers to join Priory School from September.

### **Miss Savin**

Miss Savin studied at Twynham Secondary School and then graduated from the University of Winchester in 2021 with a BA in Education Studies and a PGCE. Since then she has been working in Year 1 at Pennington Infant School. During our selection process we were particularly impressed with Miss Savin's energy, enthusiasm and creative approach to teaching. She will be a great addition to our team and I look forward to welcoming her to Priory School.

### **Miss Worrall**

Miss Worrall is currently in her second year of teaching at Bishop John Robinson Church of England Primary School, East London. Miss Worrall graduated in English Literature from the University of Sheffield and trained to be a teacher at London South Bank University, where she received outstanding references. Miss Worrall is a grade 8 pianist and will be leading music next year. She is really excited to be moving back to Christchurch.

## Further recruitment underway

I usually announce the teaching team line-up to staff and parents straight after May half-term. Unfortunately, as these changes have only happened this week I am still looking for a new Teaching Assistant and a new Class Teacher. **Friday 30th June is our transition day (where children will spend time with their new teachers), so everyone will know their new class teacher (and the additional adults in their classroom) by this date at the latest.**

I can confirm that Miss Etheridge will be in Reception Class and that Mr McLean and Miss Field will both be in Year 6.

Please share this information with your child as you feel appropriate, as we have not told them in school today. Members of SLT and the governing body will be available on the gate at home time today, should any parents wish to discuss this before the half-term holiday.

Kind Regards,

Mr P Ruffle & Mrs S Richardson  
Headteacher