

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 6th July 2020

Re: Appointment of Class Teacher for the Year 1 maternity post.

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Following on from the letter about class teachers for next year, I am writing to inform you that we have appointed Miss Ellie Lester to cover Mrs Player's maternity leave. She will job share with Mrs Ives (our Key Stage One leader) and will teach Year 1 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week.

Initially, we were looking to appoint from the middle of October to cover Mrs Player's maternity leave. However, you will be aware that Mrs Player is unable to work with groups of children at present due to medical advice. Current advice suggests that due to the stage in Mrs Player's pregnancy, it is unlikely that Mrs Player will be able to return to work in September as we had initially hoped - but this is not a definite.

Due to the uncertainty of the situation, we didn't want to wait until closer to September and risk not having a teacher to cover Mrs Player. Continuity for your children at all times is incredibly important to us but especially following these lengthy closures, where transition in September and building relationships will be a vital first step for well-being in all classes. As a result, we have appointed Miss Lester to work with Year 1 from 1st September alongside Mrs Ives and hopefully Mrs Player too. If Mrs Player is able to return following medical advice, they will work together to provide exciting learning opportunities for the children. Handovers are already taking place but if Mrs Player is unable to return, she will have regular meetings virtually with Miss Lester and Mrs Ives to support the transition period from Reception to Year 1 during term 1.

We hope you understand that we have done everything we can to ensure continuity for the children by investing in a member of staff earlier and not leaving things until closer to the time, which would have meant uncertainty for staffing and for the children. We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming Miss Lester to our school community; she is excited about meeting everyone and will be in school on Thursday 9th July for Reception report collection day (along with Mrs Ives and Mrs Player). We are hoping that this will give you an opportunity to say a socially distanced 'hello' to them all.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday.
Kind regards,
Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

