



MELLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER · MR. J.E. NICHOLSON B.A. HONS., P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H.

Company Number 7737398

Friday, 03 July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Following the Secretary of States address yesterday and the release of the latest guidance we are already considering how this impacts upon school and our planning for September.

We will of course share with you, as soon as is physically possible, how we will open in the new term. In the meantime there are some additional pieces of information that we can share.

In order to 'normalise' school as much as possible we will retain the present teacher organisation. Our children will therefore move into the new year with a new teacher.

Year 6 - Mrs Tittershill & Mrs Bergin

Year 5 – Miss Russell

Year 4 – Miss Lockwood

Year 3 – Mrs Jackson & Ms Parkin

Year 2 – Mrs Townley & Mrs Burnett

Year 1 – Miss Haynes

Early Years – Mrs Boardman, Mrs Goodfellow & Mrs Hargreaves

Over the next 3 weeks there will be work undertaken on transition between classes. Clearly this won't be the same as usual however there will be communication between your child and their new teacher.

In other business we are delighted to announce that during the last few weeks we have been working to strengthen our governance structure. We have a new Chair of Governors, Mr David Hoult alongside four new Trustees: Beverley Ansty, Helen Greatorex, David Johnson, Katherine Scott.

David was Head of Music at University College Salford 1988 - 1993 and then Principal of Leeds College of Music 1993 - 2008. He has a raft of experience relevant to the education sector.



Beverley Ansty taught at Mellor for 22 years, and before that she taught at The Dale and at Orrishmere Primary School in Cheadle.

Helen Greatorax is a former pupil at Mellor. She studied law at university, and is now acquisitions manager at Endemol Shine Group in Amsterdam (but she lives in Mellor).

David Johnson is a retired headteacher. He was head of Failsworth School in Oldham from 1991 – 2009, and before that he taught at secondary schools in Stockport. He is a member of the Mellor Parish Centre committee and he lives in Marple Bridge.

Kate Scott is also a pupil at Mellor. She went on to study languages at Sheffield University, before qualifying as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. She is now a chartered accountant with her own practice.

The Trustees of Mellor Primary School have been working hard for the benefit of the school throughout this time and I must commend them to you for their services. A special thanks to Lynda Gwyther who stepped up to be Chair of Governors, leading the Trustees in the initial stages of the pandemic until David Hoult was appointed.

Final thoughts, in the last few weeks we have heard such phrases as: *this lost generation; 6 months of lost schooling* and *catch up programmes*.

Whilst we know that some of our children may have been out of school for 14 weeks of learning by the end of the academic year, I want to give some reassurance that we will do everything we can to readdress the balance.

I'm minded that in 2014 the Government expectations for attainment were accelerated by a year. The new curriculum presented schools, teachers and children with significant increases in age related demands.

Year 7 expectations became that of Year 6; Year 6 became Year 5 and so on, our staff responded accordingly and our children were accelerated in their learning whilst still retaining a broad and balanced curriculum.

We did it then and we will find a way to ensure that the fear language we hear in the media will become yesterday's chip paper and our children **will** flourish.

In the words of the 14th century female monk Juliana of Norwich who lived through the bubonic plague pandemic

'He said not, thou shalt not be tempested; he said not, thou shalt not be diseased; he said thou shalt not be overcome and all shall be well... and all shall be well... and all manner of things shall be well!'

We will do our utmost at Mellor Primary School to make sure all will be well.

Best wishes



Jim Nicholson

Headteacher

