



**THE WHITEOAK ACADEMIES,**  
**HANNAH MORE INFANTS AND GROVE JUNIORS**  
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Headteacher: Mr Duncan Cook, BSc Hons



*"Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds."*

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Staffing & Leadership News**

It has been lovely to see the start of Spring and a bit of sunshine! As we approach the end of term and my last few days with you all here at school, I wanted to write to you with our latest staff updates and leadership news.

#### **Miss Bridson**

Firstly, I am sad to announce that Miss Claire Bridson will be leaving us mid-way through Term 5. Miss Bridson has decided that now is the right time for her to pursue opportunities outside of teaching and will be taking up a new post working as a Project Manager for Bath & North East Somerset Council. Miss Bridson has worked at our family of schools for almost 21 years, with the majority of her time spent class teaching in Grove Juniors. Since having children, Miss Bridson has returned on a part-time basis providing planning and preparation cover for teachers across the school and she has also made a significant contribution to designing and developing our computing and online safety curriculums as Computing Lead. Furthermore, Miss Bridson has helped to create and build our school website. I'm sure you will join me in thanking her for her commitment to our family of schools and in wishing her every success on her new adventure.

#### **Maternity Cover**

I am delighted to share that Miss Lamb will be returning to school from her maternity leave at the end of Term 5. Miss Lamb will be returning four days a week for the summer term and I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success and happiness on her return.

As you already know, we are also very pleased to be able to welcome back Miss Dowling from her maternity leave after the Easter break. Miss Dowling has already met the children in Reception and will be returning from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, teaching Honeybees Class alongside Mrs Carr. For the rest of this academic year, Miss Dowling will teach Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Carr continuing to teach Wednesday to Friday.

Sadly, this will mean that we have to say goodbye to Miss Henry at the end of this term. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Henry for what has been a very successful maternity period. We are all very grateful to her for covering the class and for taking such good care of the children.

#### **Term 5's Leadership Arrangements**

Mrs Reyes and I have already been busy preparing for the summer term. Please find below, a message from her to you all. For Terms 5 and 6, Mrs Reyes will be Executive Headteacher of both our family of schools and Northleaze. This is to enable a smooth and effective transition to September. From the start of Term 5, Mrs Reyes will be in school every Wednesday building to every Tuesday and Wednesday from the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

To help ensure the school has excellent continuity, Mrs Murray will be taking up post as Acting Associate Headteacher, increasing her hours to five days per week. As Assistant Headteacher, Miss Flemming will also be increasing her hours and working in school Wednesday to Friday. In addition to this, Miss Evans will also be released from class on a Monday and Tuesday to ensure strong capacity in school. This will include her PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment) time and will be covered by Miss Fiore, who knows Maple Class well. Throughout Term 5, Miss Evans will be in class all day Wednesday to Friday. As is already the case, Mrs Barrett will be released on Wednesdays as Acting KS1 Lead.

## Term 5 Leadership Model

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mrs Murray Miss Evans	Mrs Reyes (from 30.04.24) Mrs Murray Miss Evans	Mrs Reyes Mrs Murray Miss Flemming Mrs Barrett	Mrs Murray Miss Flemming	Mrs Murray Miss Flemming

As a family of schools, we are incredibly blessed to have such a strong staff team and I have no doubt the school will continue to go from strength to strength on the next stage of its development. I'm sure you will join me in supporting them 100% and in wishing them all a wonderful Easter and a successful summer period.

With very best wishes,

Mr Duncan Cook  
Executive Headteacher

### A message from your new Headteacher

Dear Whiteoak Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the next Headteacher of Hannah More Infants and Grove Juniors and very much looking forward to beginning my work with the whole school community after Easter. This will be my third Headship (having been Headteacher at Ubley Primary School in the Chew Valley before moving to Northleaze six years ago) and I am excited to get to know the team, the children and the parent community, and to think about how we can continue developing the many successes seen for the schools over the last few years.

I recognise I have big shoes to fill in following Mr Cook and have been very grateful for the support he has already given me as I begin learning about the Whiteoak Way! The vision we introduced at Northleaze a few years ago is 'let your light shine' and that is something I am passionate about for our young people; wanting them to be confident and happy in who they are, proud to be the best version of themselves.

When not at school I will be found either on the side of a badminton court, a rugby pitch or football pitch (being the parent of boys aged 19 and 15) or singing and playing the piano (my other passions)!

I look forward to meeting you all soon and wish you a lovely Easter break when you get there.

Kind regards,

Mrs Reyes