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Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### **Staffing for the academic year 2023-24**

Dear families,

As we head rather quickly towards the new academic year, we wanted to inform you of some key changes to staffing for the next academic year. As you will be aware, the most important factor when it comes to providing the children of Olive Hill with a high standard of education is the staff that deliver that education, whether it be directly (class teachers and teaching assistants) or indirectly (office staff, support staff, site staff etc). We are very lucky here at Olive Hill to have a dedicated and committed team of staff, and this just makes it even harder to say goodbye to them when it is time for them to move onto pastures new.

We will be temporarily saying goodbye to Mrs Honey at the end of this academic year, as she commences her maternity leave. Despite feeling slightly uncomfortable, Mrs Honey is determined to make it to the end of the year with her current class. Mrs Honey is now quite far along in her pregnancy, and we've all been surprised that the children haven't asked more questions. We will have now opened the flood gates and the questions will be flowing in.

Sadly, Miss Care will be relocating to Nottingham at the end of this academic year. We have done our very best to persuade her that she could commute to Dudley each day, however, this is not really a realistic suggestion. Miss Care started her teaching career here with us at Olive Hill and it has been a great pleasure to observe her flourish. Miss Care consistently puts the children first and will go above and beyond to support them. Leaving Olive Hill has been a big decision for Miss Care, and we have already shed a few tears. Miss Care will be greatly missed by us all and we know she will continue to give the very best of herself to her new school.

Finally, the wonderful Mr Priest has been seconded for next academic year to one of the other schools in our multi academy trust. Mr Priest will be leaving us for the year to support school improvement beyond Olive Hill. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Priest, and not one that has been taken lightly. More tears were shed as decisions were made. Mr Priest is an absolute champion for the children, staff, and community of Olive Hill. He is a great supporter of our school and all that we aim to achieve. He consistently wants the very best for the children and will spend lots of time carefully considering what the best looks like. His compassion and integrity are second to none and we are hugely appreciative of all that he has achieved. To us, Mr Priest is simply the best and we are going to miss him so much.

For next academic year, we will have a few new faces on the senior leadership team (SLT). Miss Walters will be the acting deputy headteacher - a role that she will excel at, as she

keeps us moving forward and looking to the future. (She loves a timetable!) Joining the team will be Miss Homer, as acting assistant headteacher for academic achievement and Mrs Shinner, as acting assistant headteacher for character development. Miss Homer and Mrs Shinner are both looking forward to extending their reach beyond their own classrooms and to working with a larger section of our community.

Mrs White will now join the middle leadership team as acting phase leader for phase one. We know she will make a great addition to the team and work tirelessly alongside Mrs Higgins (phase two lead), Miss Raphael (phase three lead) and Miss Skidmore (SENCO).

We will be welcoming Miss Mullard back to the Olive Hill team come September (she previously covered a maternity for us and will return to cover Mrs Honey's maternity). We will also be welcoming Mr Brittle, Miss Knight, and Mrs Underhill to our staff team as class teachers.

The children will have the opportunity to meet their new class teacher on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July. We welcome all of parents and carers (along with their children) to our 'Meet the Teacher' event on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July between 3.30pm and 5.45pm. No appointment is necessary, and staff will be available to point you in the right direction. We hope to see lots of you at this event.

There will be goodbyes, hellos, and congratulations to be shared over the last few weeks of term. If you speak to Mr Priest or Miss Care, you may need a supply of tissues handy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Grasby  
Headteacher