



Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

Tel: (01227) 272385

Headteacher: Mrs. Annie Knoupe BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers

I wrote to you in July, just before the summer holidays, to let you know that Mrs Knoupe had decided to move on to new challenges in Broadstairs. She will leave us at Christmas (end of Term 2). I promised in that letter to keep you as up to date as possible - which is what this letter is about.

The Governing Body has appointed a panel of Governors to carry through the recruitment process. The panel is Gary Edwards, Viv Hayward and Kate Soutan along with myself as Chair. We will be supported through the process by Kate Wilson, our school adviser from KCC and KCC's HR team.

Our original thought was to try and appoint our new Head Teacher to start in January, at the beginning of Term 3. However, as I suggested in my July letter, we concluded that the timescale was too tight to enable us to do all the preparation work that is required, give as wide a range of applicants as possible the chance to apply and to give ourselves the time to consider all the candidates properly. As a result, we have decided to aim for our new HT to start after Easter at the beginning of Term 5. This means, as I said in my July letter, that we need to put in interim arrangements for Terms 3 and 4.

We have asked Mrs Roy to become Interim Head of School during this period. She will be supported by Mrs Collins as Assistant HT. Both will be withdrawn from their teaching duties with their Year 4 class but will be replaced by a full time teacher who will stay with the Year 4 class right through to the end of term 6, irrespective of the progress of the HT appointment process.

We have also agreed with Swalecliffe Primary School that their Executive Head Teacher, Ben Cooper, will take up a role as Interim Executive Head Teacher at Whitstable Juniors (part time) during Terms 3 and 4, as well as remaining in his role at Swalecliffe. Mr Cooper is a very experienced and well-regarded local HT who knows our school well and will provide further support to Mrs Roy and the rest of the school team. Mr Cooper will split his time between WJS and Swalecliffe 50/50 with an expectation that he will be in WJS for approximately half of each school day. Mrs Roy and Mrs Collins will be the senior leaders in the school full time and should be your first port of call if you need to speak to someone. Governors will continue to monitor the school in the same way as usual.

Our advert went 'live' on Wednesday last with applications closing on November 7th. Interviews are scheduled for November 28th so, if all goes to plan, we should be able to announce our new HT before Christmas!

The Governing Body is clear that we want a HT that ensures the school retains the values, the character and the ethos that have made it such a great place to learn and grow.

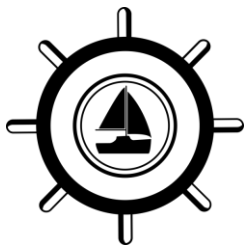
If you have any questions don't hesitate to drop me a line.

Regards

Ged Smith, Chair of Governors

gsmith@whitstable-junior.kent.sch.uk





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