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John Ball School is fully committed to safeguarding all pupils and celebrating diversity.

16th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As one of the most unusual school years draws to a close, I would like to share some information with you regarding the end of this year and the start of the next school year.

Staffing News

It is always hard to say goodbye when staff leave us and this year is no exception. We are sad to see Jane Tribble leave John Ball School after 12 and a half years' service. Jane has been the epitome of calm through all her Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes at the school. Jane has used the pandemic to reflect on life and had decided to move to Stroud and enjoy her freedom. With very envious eyes, we wish her lots of relaxing walks, long lunches and joy.

Anna Townsend has also been with us for 12 years and not only becoming a mother to her own three fantastic children, she has also been the exceptional mother of Heath for Health which will be a lasting legacy at the school. Anna is going to be teaching music across a federation closer to home. We wish her luck and would always welcome her back as a special guest when we can have a community Heath for Health again.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Mrs Young who has led Year 5 and 6 for the last two school years to cover Mrs Coles's maternity leave and reduced working on return from having her second child. We appreciate that Mrs Young has taken on this role during this time.

As life is full of beginnings and ends, we also give a warm John Ball welcome to Ruby Sheppard who will be joining the EYFS team as a class teacher in Reception. Ruby previously worked with us on a temporary contract and we are delighted that she is re-joining us more permanently. We are also delighted to welcome Robyn Kinnersley to the teaching team in Year 1. Robyn has undertaken a three year teaching degree having completed two of her practices at John Ball. I know that both Ruby and Robyn are strong additions to #TeamJB.

You may notice that Krystl Francis is not listed to have a class next year. This is because Mrs Francis and her husband are expecting their first child in November and we are delighted for them. Therefore Mrs Francis will support with learning in the first half term before taking maternity leave.

As you will remember, Becky Suffield left us at Christmas and Beth Budden became a temporary Assistant Headteacher and took on Year 1 and 2 with her existing responsibilities of Year 3 and 4. Following a national recruitment process and 32 applications, I am delighted to announce that Beth Budden, Cassey Kiely and Sophi Cole will take on Assistant Headteacher roles in September. Cassey will be responsible for EYFS and Safeguarding, Beth will be responsible for Year 1-3 and Sophi will be responsible for Year 4-6. Each of them will not have a class but will teach every class for a lesson every week as part of the PPA cycle. As well as enabling Cassey, Beth and Sophi to know every child in their phase it will also play a strategic part in ensuring continuity across all parts of the school.

Transition Arrangements

Friday 2 nd July	New Teachers Children and Parents will be informed of new class teachers in a letter via email.
5-5.45pm Monday 5 th July	Nursery Meeting - One parent only Parents who have children joining Nursery in September are invited to visit the Nursery classroom and outside area and have a 10 minute presentation by their class team led by Cassey Kiely, Assistant Headteacher for EYFS.
5-5.45pm Tuesday 6 th July	Reception Meeting - One parent only Parents who have children joining Reception in September are invited to visit the EYFS site and classrooms and have a 10 minute presentation by their class team led by the Cassey Kiely, Assistant Headteacher for EYFS.
5-5.45pm Wednesday 7 th July	Year 1 Meeting – One parent only Parents who have children moving to Year 1 in September are invited to visit the Year 1 classroom and outside area and have a 10 minute presentation by their class team led by Beth Budden, Assistant Headteacher for Year 1-3.
Monday 12 th July	Meet the Teacher afternoon Children will have the opportunity to go to their new classroom with their new teacher for the afternoon.
Week beginning 19 th July	Class parties Each class will have a class celebration during this week. Teachers will share information nearer the time.
7pm Tuesday 20 th July	Year 6 performance of High School Musical – Ticket info to follow One parent per child (therefore an adult can attend each performance for every child) If restrictions lift we can go to 2 adults per child. Children to arrive at 6.30pm.
7pm Wednesday 21 st July	Year 6 performance of High School Musical - Ticket info to follow One parent per child (therefore an adult can attend each performance for every child) If restrictions lift we can go to 2 adults per child. Children to arrive at 6.30pm.
10am on Friday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers assembly – 1 adult per child - Ticket info to follow If restrictions lift we can go to 2 adults per child, if they remain we will attempt to film and upload to our YouTube channel.
Available all summer	Video from your new teacher available on the school website under the transition tab. This will outline where the children enter the school site, school building and route to get to the new classroom. It will show where to leave coats, what toilets to use and the classroom layout. This can be used as a social story over the summer holiday and prior to returning as required.
Targeted Transitions for some children	
The following targeted transition activities are only available with prior arrangement with the team. Please make contact with Maria Valkova before Friday 9 th July: mvalkova.209@lgflmail.org	
Available through the summer	‘Keeping you in mind’ cards These are cards that are written to your child from the new teacher to demonstrate the teacher has held a space for that child in their mind over the summer break. This is useful for Looked after children or some adopted children. It may also be useful for children who may need extra emotional and social support returning to school
Wednesday 1st September	Additional visit to the school Between 1.30pm and 3pm on the day before children return, we allow for an additional visit for children and their parents to visit the school and classroom and meet the teacher. This would normally allow children to reconnect to the school after the long break. This is useful for Looked after children or adopted children. It may also be useful for children with EHCPs or children with social or emotional needs. It may also be useful for children who may need extra emotional and social support returning to school.

Sports Day

We have planned to have a sports week where each bubble will have an allocated slot to enjoy competitive sports in the Key stage 2 playground. Sadly, this means that we will not be able to invite parents. However, we will take lots of photos that we will be able to share with you. We look forward to next year when we can have a large celebration of competitive sport, with our parents as supporters, together again, on the Heath.

Date	Time	Bubble
Tuesday 13 th July	Morning	Nursery
	Afternoon	Reception
Wednesday 14 th July	Morning	Year 1
	Afternoon	Year 3
Thursday 15 th July	Morning	Year 2
	Afternoon	Year 4
Friday 16 th July	Morning	Year 6
	Afternoon	Year 5

Trips

I am aware that some schools have begun to run trips and residential stays. We have no plans to run trips or residential stays this school year as we believe that it will increase the risk of a bubble having to close resulting in 90 children and their staff self-isolating and remote learning. The only exception to this is carefully planned day trips for the Year 6 cohort in recognition that they have missed out on both their Year 5 and Year 6 residential. We are planning to run all our planned trips from September and can't wait to take the children out again.

September

Currently we are planning for September with the hypothesis that there will be no need for bubbles but also knowing that we have sound plans if we are still required to socially distance. Therefore, we will write out with drop off and pick up plans nearer the end of the school year.

Jacqui Noakes
Headteacher