



THE PINES SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss Emma Pearce, B.Ed. (Hons), MEd, AdvDipEd

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear families

Well we made it! Another really tricky year for the Pines with the ongoing disruption that COVID brought, with bubbles popping, another lockdown and periods of isolation. Thank you all for your ongoing support during this year, it hasn't been easy and your understanding and continued commitment to the Pines has been greatly appreciated. It has been a pleasure to see the children continue to grow and develop over the years, despite everything. I am bias, but our children are amazing and it is a privilege to work with them. Many thanks to all of you who have sent in gifts and thank you cards, and for all of the positive messages received on Dojo.

As we look forward to next term, with fingers tightly crossed we hope that there is some normality being brought back into school life. We will share plans with you before the children return, at the minute, we are a little sceptical and think that there will be amendments made to the guidance late in August! That being said, it is looking like a good year as we have year 11 – meaning that the Pines has reached its potential as an all age school. With that comes additional staffing and we welcome a number of new staff in September.

Mr Tom L has successfully been appointed as Assistant Headteacher for secondary as Mr Lawrence has secured the position of Deputy Headteacher (permanently)

We welcome the following teachers, Ms Laura Rawlings, Ms Hanna Simmons, Mr Steve Wilkes, Ms Jill Williams and Ms Vanessa Jenkins. We are pleased that Mr Andy Chapman is going to be staying with us for the autumn term also.

Some teaching assistants have been successful in gaining promotion with us, congratulations to Nahida, Amy, Momotaj, Nandini, Becky, John, Nazma, Sally, Lucy, Mandy, Saika, Thom, Lorrillie and Debbie

We have the pleasure of recruiting a number of new teaching assistants, Patrina, Victoria, Nagina, Jackie and Anna.

We also will be welcoming Michelle and Rhiannon back from their maternity leave.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mikeala Dowling who leaves us, and we wish her all the best for the future. We are going to miss her lots.



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Finally, can I take a moment to thank the staff for all of their hard work and continued support to me, the school but most importantly to the children. They have worked tirelessly this year, through difficult times and have ensured that The Pines has remained as calm and as happy as it always has been. They have adapted to online lessons, managed their own anxieties around the pandemic, isolated and worked from home turning their living rooms into classrooms. The office staff have maintained regular communications and have been instrumental in helping us send learning packs out not to mention text messages and phone calls home. The site manager and cleaning team have helped us to keep school as safe as it can be. Our therapists have supported in anyway they can running zoom sessions and supporting staff within the classroom. I have to pay mention to the members of staff we have sadly lost this year. The untimely passing of Simeon and Shahdab has effected the staff team significantly, but we remember them fondly and their memories remain. In the coming academic year we will look at a way of holding a celebration for all their work at the Pines.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy summer. Let's hope the good weather stays and the restrictions continue to lift.

We look forward to seeing the children back with us on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

Best Wishes



Emma Pearce

Headteacher



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