



20 June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the final half term of this school year, and what a year it has been.

In January and February, Covid-19 was still extremely prevalent, forcing us to close classes due to insufficient staffing and our inability to ensure safe and effective education. We are thankful that with your support we were able to weather the storm and although the virus has not disappeared completely, the disruption to learning and the impact on both staff and pupils' health is now greatly reduced.

We are extremely grateful to the staff here at The Forest School. Their commitment, hard work and adaptability has ensured that our pupils have remained safe and happy, are engaged in meaningful learning experiences and make outstanding progress. Our staff regularly go above and beyond to support the pupils and each other.

We have been delighted that off-site trips and visits have taken place over the last few months to enhance classroom learning and provide opportunities for personal and social development, communication and independence skills. These visits have included four highly successful residentials across all key stages. We are grateful that the virus did not stop these as before, but most importantly we are grateful for the staff who either organised or attended these, giving up their time away from their own families to ensure our pupils had fun and memorable experiences.

We are pleased to inform you that Mr Michael McCarthy, having taught on supply in a variety of classes in key stages 3 and 4 since January, has recently been appointed as a permanent member of our teaching staff. His appointment fills the vacancy created when, after 16 years teaching at The Forest School, Miss Vicki Jones moved to a new role in a school in Leeds at Easter.

We are also pleased to announce that Miss Wendy Brown, Key Stage 4 Leader, has given birth to a beautiful baby boy and has begun her maternity leave. We miss her but wish her all the best. Mr Kevin Doherty began working in Key Stage 4, alongside Miss Brown before she left, in order to get to know the pupils, their timetable and routines, and has subsequently and successfully slotted into place as class teacher for 11WB.

We are currently planning our classes and classrooms for next year, working out where pupils, teachers and teaching assistants will be to ensure the best possible balance of

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familiarity, experience and knowledge. We have also already begun to see new September starters coming for initial transition visits. We are always so delighted by how friendly and welcoming Forest pupils are, helping any anxieties or worries the newcomers may be feeling lessen. We will share information about next year's classes with you in due course.

There are only a few weeks left before our Year 11 pupils leave us and move on to the next phase of their education. Most of them have visited their new settings and they are looking forward to starting there in September.

Our final item of news is that the Governors are seeking a new Headteacher/Principal for The Forest School, to start in January 2023. We both remain committed to the school and, in order to ensure stability for the Autumn term, we have agreed to continue in post as Interim Co-Headteachers until the end of December 2022. We would like to thank you all for your support over the last few months. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or feedback for us.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Frankland and Paul James
Interim Co-Headteachers