



9th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body I am writing to you today regarding the recent adjustment to staffing in Class 1 following Mrs Murgatroyd's departure. As a body we felt it was important to reassure our parents and carers that the quality of our children's education remains at the heart of everything we do and we hope any concerns about the new arrangements have been addressed.

We would like to reiterate once more that the decision to increase Mrs Grayson hours and make optimum use of our highly experienced TA support in school was taken after we considered all the options available to us.

With Mrs Grayson in school for four days now, it means all Class 1 lessons are planned and reviewed directly by her. On Thursday afternoons, when Mrs Grayson has her statutory PPA time, Class 1 will join with Class 2 for a teacher-led PE session and story time. Julie will remain with the children for continuity and they will return to their own classroom for snack before home time.

On Friday mornings, the children will remain in their own classroom following their curriculum and making full use of the excellent continuous provision and carefully planned education activities on offer. Julie will lead the session, supported by Louisa. The children will join with Class 2 on Friday afternoon for extra curricula activities and the whole school assembly.

It is important to stress that all children, in Class 1 and 2, will still be provided with small group high quality teaching sessions in maths, literacy and phonics five days a week and we do not seek to compromise this in anyway.

We strongly believed that maintaining the current routine for Class 1 for pupils with staff members they are familiar with offers significant benefits over the introduction of a supply teacher, especially whilst we operate under the significant constraints to restrict the spread of the coronavirus.

Finally, I would like to stress that as a governing body we continually monitor staffing levels of the whole school against both our Ofsted Improvement Plan and the health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils. We are proud that at Castle Carrock we can offer separate classes for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children and, despite financial constraints over recent years, we are doing all we can to continue this.

The changes outlined above will be reviewed and monitored by the governing body on a regular basis to ensure a high level of education continues.

A follow up Zoom meeting for parents and carers has been arranged for **Thursday, November 26th, at 11am** but please do not wait until then if you wish to talk to either Mrs Grayson, Mrs Helliwell or Ms Stacey who are always available to discuss any concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Judd".

Christian Judd
Chair of Governors