

21st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure spending even more time over the last couple of weeks at Woodston Primary School and getting to know the staff and pupils much more closely. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Woodston for their support and for ensuring the school has returned positively after the Christmas holidays. I have seen some really lovely learning taking place and am really excited to see the development of the new lunchtime provision to ensure pupils are well prepared going into their afternoon lessons.

I have also been pleased to welcome Mr Reilly and Mr Marks over to Woodston where they have spent time visiting classrooms, meeting with staff, and looking at their priorities during this temporary leadership support period. Hopefully, some of you saw us at the gate last week and will have seen Mr Reilly and Mr Marks since. Thank you to those who came and said hello. You will hopefully see more of us at the gates in the coming weeks. Thank you also for the kind wishes for Mrs Ford, which I will ensure are passed on.

Our focus for this half-term is to identify what is working well at the school and address some areas we want to improve. We know that there is content on the website which is now outdated, and we are working hard to review this and update it as swiftly as possible.

Communication

We're also aware that a key area over the past few months has been communication, and this has not been of the standard we would expect. We know that there has been a challenge with staffing in the office, however, it is essential that you as parents are well-informed about the school. Mr Reilly will be looking at this in the coming weeks.

Staffing

We also know that there has been a turnover of staff and some key staff absences. Again, we will do our best to stabilise these key areas and ensure you are communicated to at the earliest opportunity - I have provided a staffing update below. Whilst we have lost some very valued members of staff, we have also recruited some very strong appointments, and we welcome our new staff to the Woodston family.

We are pleased to confirm that Mrs Harrison has increased her days within Reception and will now be teaching Class RCW full-time in the absence of Mrs Carroll and following the departure of Mrs Witt at the end of the last half-term. Miss Wilson left us at the end of the Christmas term to prepare for the arrival of her new baby and we wait to share news of their safe arrival. We are pleased that Miss Williams has made a really positive start to her role as class teacher of RLW. The year group is being positively supported by Miss Collins, Miss Lloyd, and Mrs Mroz. We know this year group has had significant instability and we have prioritised stabilising this staffing team for them. They have also been very well supported by Mrs Phillips, Headteacher at Castor Primary School to ensure we are delivering the very best early years curriculum.

Within Year 1, we say goodbye to Mrs Shayler at the end of this month as she also heads off to prepare for the arrival of her baby. We are pleased to say that Miss Collins will be teaching the class on Thursday and Friday each week, which is fantastic as she already works in the school and is already spending time with the children and the Year 1 team. Miss Atkinson (Year 3 teacher) is the new Year 1/2 Phase Leader.

We are also sad to see Mrs Russo leave us, who is a TA in Year 1. She leaves after several years at Woodston but has been successful in gaining a promotion in another local school. We wish her well in her new role. We have appointed a number of new TAs across the

school who we will introduce to you over the coming weeks. We are now feeling very positive about creating a more stable staffing team.

I am excited for the term ahead at Woodston. We have a great staff team who are eager to get it right for our pupils. I think if we work closely together, we can achieve some great things. I look forward to seeing you around the school site over the coming weeks - please do come and say hello (I am the very tall lady!)

Kind regards

Lorraine Greco

CEO

OWN Trust