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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am now in a position to be able to update you on the future plans for Reception class teaching arrangements. After discussion with the Governors and the senior leadership team, we can confirm that we will be externally advertising the post of Reception teacher forthwith, with the object of recruiting the best possible candidate for the position.

Our priority, at this point, is to secure the appointment of an individual of the highest calibre, with excellent skills and expertise in the Early Years Foundation Stage and in due course I will keep parents updated on the progress of our appointment of a new, permanent Reception teacher. As regards timescales, we aim to hold interviews in mid- November, subject to the suitability of applicants, and to arrange for the successful candidate to start in post as soon as possible thereafter.

In the interim, I will ensure that the best means of support is put in place to provide the highest standards of teaching for your children. To facilitate this, Mrs Parkins (Lower School Leader) and I are working closely with Miss Formston and the Reception team to oversee all Reception matters.

Miss Formston's credentials include a first class honours degree in Early Childhood Studies and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education with qualified teacher status, gained at Liverpool John Moore's University. Miss Formston has taught most recently, in the Reception class at several other schools, with some being on a longer term supply basis and she comes to us on excellent recommendation and with a high standard of cutting edge training. Her experience has also included the role of Room Leader in a Foundation Stage 1 classroom, therefore equipping her with the contextual knowledge of expectations for children at this developmental level and provides a wealth of knowledge and expertise for supporting children at the beginning of Foundation Stage 2 / Reception year.

Reception children's baseline assessments were completed in the early weeks of term with a particular focus on early literacy and early mathematics. This data is a snapshot of where children's developmental knowledge and skills are, at the start of the reception year. Used in conjunction with teacher assessment and evidence of children's learning, this qualitative and quantitative data allows us to track and monitor children's progress effectively and to structure tailored learning opportunities for their next steps, much of which will be evident through your child's EY Log online learning journey.

We are keen to support our parent partnerships further and will be offering opportunities throughout the year to share information about how key aspects are taught and ideas about how parents can support at home. With this in mind, we will be holding a Parent Meeting and Workshop Session on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 6pm to share information about how we teach your child phonics, reading and writing and suggestions for how parents can best support this at home. We will send out further details about the meeting in due course, but I felt that it was a good opportunity to highlight as a date for the diary now. As mentioned earlier in my correspondence, I will keep parents informed and up to date, as soon as we have any further information to offer, but I trust that sufficient clarity, at this juncture, has been provided towards our aims for the next few weeks. If, however, you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

Thank you, as always, for your co-operation and support.

Mrs J Callaway  
Headteacher