

Ackworth Mill Dam School

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Mrs Samantha Thompson
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MILL DAM SCHOOL
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Dear parents,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that Covid restrictions will continue to ease so that I can invite you back into school again! We are making lots of changes and I can't wait to show them to you.

Our extension of main school was completed in September and the new main reception area, year 6 classroom, offices and staffroom are a really positive addition to the school. Currently the work is in progress extending the nursery building to make a combined EYFS unit which will enable nursery and reception to work together in a brand new space; ensuring that all children within the early years have an excellent start to their time in school. They will still work as separate classes for specific sessions and each class will have a dedicated teacher as well as at least one additional staff member. The unit will mean that they can all access the excellence of provision and expertise provided by these dedicated staff. We are working with the early years lead from the academy trust on this and I am very excited about this new addition to our provision. This also means that we are able to move to one form entry across the whole school from September so there will be no more mixed age, larger classes in key stage two. A new member of teaching staff will be joining our team from September to facilitate this; as soon as the recruitment process has been completed I will inform you of this and of which teacher will be working with which year group next year.

On the subject of additional staff I would like to introduce Miss Lauren Norton to you. Miss Norton is the deputy head teacher at Cherry Tree Academy which, as you know, is the other school that I have been working with over the past 18 months. From July onwards Miss Norton is going to work across both schools as deputy head teacher and this means that she will be at Mill Dam 3 days per week. She won't have a class teaching responsibility and so will be able to actively lead the school with myself and will be a point of contact for staff, children and parents on days when I am not in the building. She will be a great addition to our team and, alongside the other senior leaders in school, I know that we can increase the opportunities and outcomes for our children even more than we have done up to now. Between now and July she is with us for occasional days and I will ensure that she is present on the gates during these days so that you can meet her (as much as we are able at the moment).

Finally, I need to speak to you about parking around school again. We have had complaints from residents about dangerous parking and about parents responding inappropriately when spoken to by local residents. This is always difficult for a school situated on such small roads but it is a problem that we need to overcome. I also realise that the presence of builders' vans etc during the current extension work has made this even more difficult and I have spoken to them about this. However, children are being put in danger by double parking and inconsiderate driving around the school and this cannot be allowed to continue. If you are able to walk to school please do this and leave your car at home. If you do need to drive then please park considerately and safely. We have contacted the local Police Community Support Officer and she is going to support us with this so you may see her around school more frequently at drop off and collection times.

If you would like to discuss any of this with me please contact me by email or call the school office.

Thankyou again for your unwavering support during this extremely challenging time. Take care,

Mrs S Thompson

Executive Head Teacher