



Kents Hill Junior School



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Head of Academy: Miss Joanne Parkes

5th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of 4EKF and Year 4,

Following on from my letter regarding Mrs Kelsey-Foreman, we know that this loss may feel especially close for your children, as she has been their class teacher and/or taught in their year group this year. Please be reassured that your children's wellbeing is our absolute priority.

There will be staff available throughout the school day for any children who may have questions, worries or who simply need someone to talk to. All conversations will be handled sensitively and in an age-appropriate way. We will be closely monitoring all pupils and responding to individual needs and we encourage you to share any concerns or changes you may notice at home so that we can continue to support your child(ren) effectively.

I would also like to clarify arrangements for teaching the class for the remainder of the academic year. From now until February, the class will be taught by Miss Ashdown, who has recently joined the KHJS community. Miss Ashdown will be supported closely by Miss Jackson to ensure continuity, consistency and strong relationships for the children.

Miss Christie, who many of you will know from previously teaching in Year 5 and Year 6, will be returning from maternity leave in February. In the weeks leading up to her return, Miss Christie will spend some time in school with the class to begin building relationships and support a smooth transition. From February onwards, Miss Christie will become the lead teacher for the class and will teach from Monday to Wednesday, with Miss Ashdown teaching on Thursdays and Fridays.

Both Miss Christie and Miss Ashdown will be with the class tomorrow - Tuesday 6th January.

The year group will continue to be overseen and led by Miss Jackson, Assistant Headteacher, who knows the children and families incredibly well and will provide ongoing support and continuity during this time.

We believe it is in the children's best interests to return to familiar routines as much as possible. For this reason, tomorrow will look like a normal school day, with the usual Tuesday lessons, routines and expectations, alongside a flexible and compassionate approach. Consistency and predictability help children feel safe and secure and allow us to best identify and support any pupils who may need additional emotional reassurance.

As always, you are very welcome to speak to either class teacher or any member of the senior leadership team if you have any questions or concerns.

Learning ~ Friendship ~ Safety ~ Success

At Kents Hill Junior School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Joanne Parkes

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Thank you, as ever, for your trust, compassion and understanding at this difficult time. Our commitment remains firmly with your children’s wellbeing, care and learning.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parkes
Headteacher

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