

Staverton Road,  
Daventry,  
Northamptonshire.  
NN11 4HW.  
Tel: (01327) 705785  
[www.thegrange.northants.sch.uk](http://www.thegrange.northants.sch.uk)

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Dear parents & carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we experience high levels of staff absence.

Year Three Willow class has been especially affected by staff absence and I now have further information to share with you. Mrs Janet Hunt was recently taken ill and her absence will be for an extended period of time. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her well, but I know you will worry about what this means for your child.

As you know, staff recruitment is proving very difficult at the moment and we will not compromise on the quality we expect from our staff. Since this week, we have been lucky enough to have Mrs Lucy Sanders join us teaching Willow class. Lucy is a very experienced teacher and slotted straight into the team this week. We are delighted that she has agreed to work with us for the long term to cover Mrs Hunt's absence. Mrs Sanders will be working on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Miss Sarah Blackwell already works as a third teacher across Year 3 for part of each week and will be teaching Willow class on Wednesdays and Fridays for the next few weeks, as well as continuing to work across both classes for the remainder of her time in school each week. This approach gives us a great deal of flexibility, high levels of interaction between teachers and children and allows us to ensure that children's individual needs are met, at all levels of academic ability. Miss Della Frost and Miss Victoria Chatwin will remain in Year 3 and Mrs Barbour will be on hand to continue to support the year group when required.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that, despite the difficulty of the last couple of weeks, the children have made a good start to the school year. All Year 3 staff have ensured that the children are receiving the curriculum they need to close any gaps caused by lockdown losses. Specific interventions are in place, with Miss Blackwell leading on this. Our team of fabulous support staff have ensured that all children are receiving any specialist support they require.

I know that you may be concerned about your children's education, particularly following on from the last 18 months. Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to ensure that the children achieve the expected standards for Year 3. Myself, Mrs Wagg, Mrs Phillips (SENDCo) and our team of middle leaders are closely involved in monitoring the provision in Year 3 and you will soon have Parents' Evening consultations. I have adapted these appointments following feedback from parents and so, will now be 20 minute sessions, giving you twice the time to discuss your child. Obviously, should you need longer, staff

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will be happy to make a further appointment.

I hope this information reassures you somewhat but if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

Vicki

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