



# Lockwood Newsletter

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024



### Dear Parents and Carers

I'd like to start today's newsletter thanking you for attendance at our Birthday picnic on Friday. Although the weather wasn't as kind as it could have been the spirit of the event was marvelous.

The children had a great time and the fancy dress competitions were almost impossible to judge - that's one of the worst parts of being Headteacher! Our thanks to Mrs Turner and her team for the packed lunches and to Mr Brown (Curly) for the bouncy castle (even though we couldn't use it).



### Staffing

This summer we have three additional retirees: Mrs Maidens, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Wills.

Unfortunately, due to declining pupil numbers over the last 6 or 7 years and lack of funding the school budget will not facilitate their replacements. This means that some very difficult decisions have had to be made with regards to how we staff classes moving forward. Our priority whilst making these decisions has been ensuring all children access the best we can offer.

With this in mind these are our classes for the 2024/2025 academic year:

Nursery and 30 hours - Mrs Martin  
Reception/Year 1 - Mrs Moore  
Year 2 - Miss Powell  
Year 3/Year 4 - Mrs Barber  
Year 4/Year 5 - Mrs Walker  
Year 6 Mrs Haywood

Year 3 parents will be informed in due course which of the split classes their children will be in.

As you can see I have not assigned specific Teaching Assistants to classes as again over the last two years we have been unable to appoint new staff to replace those that have left. As a result where TAs work is likely to be much more fluid than in the past with each of them working between classes across school.

This situation will only change if pupil numbers rise - to this end we are looking to introduce 30 hours childcare from September.

I have also put forward an expression of interest in funding for wraparound care from 7:45am - 6:00pm for all of our children. This is unlikely to be in place for September but may well be up and running in the second half of the Autumn term (November). The cost of care is likely to have to be raised to £5 for breakfast and £10 for After School Care. This will be in-line with local schools.

Things will continue as they are until then.

We really need parents to support us by using these facilities and telling other people about our amazing school and what it has to offer, unless numbers rise or funding improves small schools like our gorgeous Lockwood are likely to continue to struggle to survive financially.

We don't need additional teachers and TAs but we do need the funding to carry on paying those we have. You might want to ask local MPs what they are doing to support small schools with this as they knock on your doors over the next few weeks.