

8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to keep you up-to-date with some key changes in our Specialist Provision after Easter.

Mrs Durston has secured a new job closer to home and we wish her all the very best in her new venture.

Miss Nieters will also be leaving us as she goes travelling.

Therefore, we have needed to restructure our provision. We are in the very lucky position of having an additional, very experienced teacher, Mr Ballard, working within the Academy. He has been teaching across Specialist Provision for the past two years and he also has a wealth of more formal teaching experience. Therefore, he will become Hummingbirds new class teacher and Mrs Barrett will be moving to Swifts class, replacing Miss Nieters.

We currently have an advert out for another teacher. *This is the second time we have advertised.* We have also been working with a huge range of teaching supply agencies but all agencies either have no specialist trained staff, or staff are already booked on long term supply and therefore unavailable. The recruitment of teachers is in a national crisis and this is the hardest we have ever found it to find a teacher. They are not choosing the profession as they once did and numbers being trained are well below Government targets and demand. Saying this, the advert has had a positive response *so far* and we are hopeful we will get some applications for interview.

The incredible team in Toucans will be supported by Mrs Barrett through the pre-formal curriculum planning process. We are also moving additional staff around to further support our children across the Specialist part of our provision. Mrs Linham will remain the Higher-Level Teaching Assistant within Toucans. Her experience is second to none and she will remain a pivotal person whilst we go through the interview process. We believe that continuity and a collective support across the Academy will ensure that your children's education and care will not waver.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us and we will do our very best to answer them.

Thank you so much for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Walton and Nicola Nevell