

# Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Cheapside School, as governors, we are incredibly proud of the provision that the school delivers for all pupils. In addition to the classroom teaching, there is Forest School, Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA), specialist teaching through Mrs Barter for Phonics and Mrs Higgins for PE to name but a few, as well as enrichment opportunities such as the Year 6 residential trip and sporting and musical events in and out of school. This is not a definitive list by any means, but it gives you a flavour of what is offered here.

Over the past four and a half years Miss Dineen has been a valuable member of our teaching team as a class teacher in both Year 3 and Year 4. Sadly, for us, she will be leaving Cheapside in January to begin a new role in children's mental health. We know that she will make a great success of this and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment to Cheapside School and wish her luck in her new venture.

You will be aware that all schools are operating under considerable financial constraint. Cheapside Primary School is by no means exempt from these pressures. Nationally, there is an ongoing picture of low birth rates over consecutive years, and this is having an impact on the number of children starting in primary schools across the country. Like many schools, we now find ourselves in a position where we have lower numbers than usual on roll, particularly in the infant classes. This has had a knock-on effect to our budget as we are funded per child.

As a Governing Body, we have been working hard with the Senior Leadership Team and the Local Authority on how best to provide our children with meaningful opportunities in school whilst not losing the 'essence' that is Cheapside. To this end, the Senior Leadership Team is making some key changes which will take effect after half term.

With Miss Dineen leaving and some capacity in existing staff, the decision has been taken not to recruit a replacement for her but instead put in place the following staffing structure:

**Mrs Searle will continue to lead the school.**

**Mrs Roberts will continue to lead Key Stage 1 as Assistant Head.**

**Reception and Year 1** will be taught separately in the morning as currently. In the afternoons, the two classes will be combined and taught together by either Miss Grigulis or Mrs Coe and a teaching assistant.

**Year 2** will be taught by Mrs Spong every morning. Mrs Spong, Miss Grigulis and Mrs Day will be covering the afternoons between them.

**Mr Wickenden will continue to lead Key Stage 2 as Assistant Head.**

**Year 3** will continue to be taught by Mrs Ryker.

**Year 4** will be taught by Mrs Roberts and Mrs Searle. Mrs Roberts will be in class Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, and Mrs Searle will be in class on a Monday and Friday.

**Year 5** will continue to be taught by Mr Searle.

**Year 6** will continue to be taught by Mr Wickenden.

Mrs Barter, Mrs Miles and Mrs Higgins will all still be delivering phonics, Forest School and PE respectively throughout the week.

The decision to implement this staffing arrangement prior to Miss Dineen leaving at the end of December has been taken in order to fully support the in-year transition between class teachers in Year 4 and to have an additional teacher available for support throughout the school during this time.

The governors would like to thank the staff for their continued dedication and would like to extend a thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support. We know that the staff of Cheapside School will continue to work hard to provide outstanding educational opportunities for pupils under challenging financial circumstances.

With best wishes,

**Carole Hill**  
**Chair of Finance**  
**Governing Body**

**Kate Searle**  
**Head Teacher**