



St Mark's C.E. Primary School

Talbot Village, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4JA

Headteacher: Andrew Bright

Friday 17 October 2025

STAFFING UPDATE – 1N/B

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we have been managing some short and long-term absence within the Year 1 team during this half term. I appreciate that this has caused some parents concern.

I am aware that some of you would have liked more communication about this but I would ask for your understanding around the complexities of managing an evolving situation and that it isn't always possible, or appropriate to share information.

I would also ask for your trust that we have tried our utmost to minimise the impact on pupils while we have sought a sustainable longer-term plan.

Our thoughts are with Mrs Bound as she steps back from her class role in Year 1 and we hope her health improves on her journey to maternity leave.

Going forwards, we have recruited additional Teaching Assistants and changed the deployment of adults to bring more capacity and consistency to the support staff team working in Year 1.

From after half term, Miss Neal will teach the class (1N/R) Monday–Thursday and Miss Roberts (Deputy Headteacher) will teach the class on a Friday. Ms Hemmings will continue to provide release cover on a Wednesday for Year 1 teachers' planning, preparation and assessment time.

I believe this model will give pupils in this class a consistency of provision which we are keen to ensure across the school.

I know Miss Neal is looking forward to meeting you for parents' evenings and discussing your child's progress so far this term. If you have any ongoing concerns about staffing, please book a parent surgery appointment with me to discuss this.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Andrew Bright
Headteacher