Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Jackie Chambers
Deputy: Mrs Samantha Fenner
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Emson

☎ **01622 859261**
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Nurtured We Flourish

8th November 2026

Swallows Class Update

Dear Families of Swallows Class,

I am writing to update you regarding the staffing arrangements for Swallows Class.

Unfortunately, Mrs Walker will not be returning to school. I appreciate that the uncertainty surrounding this situation has been frustrating at times and may have caused some concern for both families and children. Until now, however, we have been unable to confirm the longer-term arrangements for the class, and I wanted to ensure that I communicated accurate information with you as soon as I could.

I am pleased to now be able to confirm that **Mrs Farish will remain as the teacher of Swallows Class until the end of this academic year. Mrs Bullett will also remain as the full-time class LSA.**

As you know, Mrs Farish has already been teaching the class for the majority of this school year and has built positive relationships with the children. She is delighted to be continuing with the class and recognises how important consistency and stability are for the children.

Mrs Farish brings many years of teaching experience, and we have been extremely pleased with the quality of teaching, learning and care she has provided since joining Swallows Class. The children have made a fantastic start to the year, and we are confident that they will continue to thrive under her guidance.

Now that these arrangements have been confirmed, Mrs Farish would like to spend some time next week focusing on team-building activities and class development, helping to strengthen relationships and continue building the positive classroom culture that she wants for the children. She is very much looking forward to leading the class for the remainder of the year and continuing to help every child achieve their very best.

We will also be completing our usual induction and support processes with Mrs Farish, as we would with any teacher joining the Harrietsham team for the longer term.

I am also pleased to confirm that Mrs Farish will be leading the upcoming Parents' Evening appointments on **18th and 19th November**. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet with her, discuss your child's progress and hear first-hand about the many strengths and successes she has already seen in the class.

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Mrs Farish has asked me to share the following message with you:



I taught my very first class in a Church of England Primary School in 1994. Since then I have been in education in a variety of roles: Class Teacher, Assistant and Deputy Head, SENDCo; Inclusion Consultant in a school in London and a Headteacher in two different schools. After my last headship where I moved the school from Requiring Improvement to Good, I reflected on my life and realised that I was at my best when I was working directly with children! I then decided to move back to the classroom and for the last three years I was a KS2 teacher and Year Group leader, (teaching Year 5 and most recently Year 4).

Due to family reasons I found myself having to supply teach for the first time in my career. I feel very fortunate that this has been at Harrietsham as I love the school! More importantly, though, I also truly appreciate the children, especially the children in Swallows - you have great children! Within my classroom I aim to create a safe, nurturing atmosphere where children can thrive both academically and emotionally. Children I have taught describe me as being "firm but fair" and that I always try to make learning "fun"!

I really value the importance of working with you. Although I do try to get it right all the time, there may be times that I have not. Please come and speak to me if you have any concerns or questions and I will listen! Ultimately, we all want the same thing - for your child to feel happy and to be achieving their potential.

I am really looking forward to working with you and continuing to teach your amazing children.
Mrs Farish

I understand that some children may have found the changes in staffing unsettling. Please be assured that we believe the consistency provided by Mrs Farish remaining with the class will be hugely beneficial for the children, and we are excited about the remainder of the year ahead. She and Mrs Bullett work very well together, and support the children excellently, and we feel they are in very safe hands.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or if you would simply like the opportunity to meet Mrs Farish and myself, we will be available in the Swallows classroom on **Monday 9th November between 3:30pm and 4:00pm**.

Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Chambers
Headteacher