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Dear Parents,

Mrs Ward

Today we said a very fond (and noisy!) farewell to Mrs Ilenia Ward, as she leaves us to begin a new role outside of education. Mrs Ward has been a huge part of Leybourne, in many roles and as both a member of staff and as a parent. Life here will certainly not be the same without her, and she will be much missed by us all. Mrs Ward leaves us with our love and very best wishes for the future.

Obviously, Mrs Ward has taught Italian and Latin throughout the school as part of her role. In line with the majority of the other primary schools in the Trust, we will now concentrate on teaching Latin in Key Stage 2. There is no requirement for a Language to be taught at Key Stage 1 – we merely wished to utilise Mrs Ward’s expertise and enthusiasm!

Parent Consultations

Due to Miss Dale’s maternity leave, Parent Consultations for Reception will take place slightly earlier than for the rest of the school. This will allow Miss Dale to meet with parents before her leave begins, and will also give parents the opportunity to meet Mrs Jackson, as we intend for these meetings to be held with both Miss Dale and Mrs Jackson. These consultations will take place on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th March.

The other Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th March.

Please do make sure you have returned your forms by Monday, in order for us to allocate meeting times. Thank you.

Sensory Garden

Huge thanks, and a massive “Well Done”, must go to our amazing Mrs Spratt for designing and creating our wonderful Sensory Garden in the courtyard. Ably assisted by an incredible team of willing volunteers, comprising members of staff and their families and friends, she has transformed a blank and neglected space into the loveliest garden,

Nurturing the spark of God within

“Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31



which is already being enjoyed by the children. I am afraid that the photos below really do not do it justice – it looked beautiful in the sunshine earlier in the week!



Staffing

After 22 years at Leybourne, Mrs Louise Grinstead will be taking early retirement at the end of this academic year. Working with her for the past 15 years has been a true privilege – she is, without doubt, one of the most talented and dedicated teachers I have ever known, and I am indebted to her for all that she has given to Leybourne since joining in 2004. Mrs Grinstead has worked tirelessly to support the children, the school and me, and she will be hugely missed by us all. She is now looking forward to spending time caring for her new baby grand-daughter and joining her husband in a more relaxed way of life – after everything she has done for us, we certainly cannot begrudge her that! Mrs Grinstead will leave with our thanks and very best wishes for the future, and plans to keep in close contact with us!

Woodland Learning

Thanks to the incredible hard work of Mr and Mrs Hardy, and Mr Taylor, during half term, the Woodland Learning area is now able to be used again. I am delighted to give you the Woodland Learning dates for the remainder of this term:

Reception

Year 1 – Wed 4th March (AM)

Year 2 – Wed 4th March (AM) and Fri 27th March (AM)

Year 3 – Wed 11th March (AM) and Fri 27th March (AM)

Year 4 – Wed 11th March (AM) and Wed 1st April (AM)

Years 5 and 6 will not be doing Woodland Learning this term as they are going to Cuffley Residential Centre.

Tina Holditch

Headteacher