



Mr C Rogers B.Ed (Hons) MA Ed NPQEL

Whittington CE (VA) Primary School

Station Road,
Whittington,
Oswestry,
Shropshire
SY11 4DA

Tel/Fax: 01691 662269

admin@whittington.shropshire.sch.uk
www.whittingtonschool.co.uk

Dear Parent,

Thursday 25 June 2026

As we prepare for the new academic year, I am pleased to share with you the class structure and staffing arrangements for September. We recognise that class organisation is important to children and families and that some parents have questions about the move to mixed-age classes. We hope the information that accompanies this letter provides reassurance about both the rationale for the change and the exciting opportunities it will create for children across the school.

As outlined in our recent communications, the move to mixed-age classes forms part of our long-term vision for the school and reflects our commitment to providing the highest quality education for all children. Alongside this letter, you will find a guide which explains the rationale and answers some of the questions that parents have raised. Each child will also be coming home with a letter that informs you of their class and teacher for next year.

We would encourage you to read the accompanying information guide carefully.

We have worked to create balanced classes that support children's learning, wellbeing and development, taking into account a wide range of educational, pastoral and social factors. We have sought to make decisions that are in the best interests of all children across the school.

We are delighted to have a strong and experienced team in place, and class transition activities have been planned to support children in developing confidence, building relationships and making a smooth start in September.

Should you wish to discuss your child's class placement, opportunities will be available to do so with teachers and school leaders next week. **An MS Forms link accompanies this letter and should be used to request a discussion. We kindly ask that all requests are submitted via the form rather than by email, Class Dojo or informal conversations at the start or end of the school day.**

Friday 26 June will be used to collate requests and ensure they are directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Discussions will then be arranged during the week beginning **29 June**.





This approach will help ensure that sufficient time is allocated for each discussion and that all requests are managed fairly and consistently.

In general, we would encourage parents with queries:

- Regarding their child's individual class placement, friendships or specific circumstances to request a discussion with their current class teacher, who knows their child best.
- Relating to the overall class structure, mixed-age organisation or the educational rationale behind these changes to request a discussion with a member of the senior leadership team.

We are excited about the opportunities that this new structure will create for children across the school. We believe it will strengthen our ability to provide support where it is needed, challenge where it is deserved and ensure that every child is known, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best. We look forward to working with families to ensure a positive transition and a successful start to the new academic year.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Carl Rogers
Executive Headteacher



Staffing Information

Mr Lyons

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing staff across the Federation, **Mr Andrew Lyons** will be taking up a new teaching position at Morda CE Primary School from September. Whilst we will be sorry to see him leave Whittington, this move reflects one of the strengths of our Federation model, which enables staff to broaden their experience, develop professionally and share expertise across both schools. We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Lisa Holmes** to the Whittington team. Mrs Holmes brings a wealth of experience and will be a valuable addition to our staff.

Year 3/4 Teacher

We are delighted that **Ms Melissa Prescott** will be taking on the role of class teacher from September. Melissa holds a PGCE (teaching degree) and will be undertaking the Teaching Apprenticeship route to Qualified Teacher Status. This is an increasingly popular pathway into teaching, combining classroom practice with structured professional development whilst allowing talented practitioners to continue developing their expertise in the classroom.

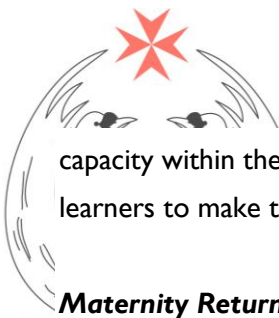
Many parents will already know Melissa through her work at Whittington, where she has built strong relationships with children and families and made a valuable contribution to school life. She brings considerable experience to the role and will be supported by experienced colleagues and school leaders throughout her development. We are confident that Melissa will be an excellent addition to our teaching team and know that she shares our high expectations.

Year 5/6 Team

We are particularly pleased with the strength of the Year 5/6 team. The 'yet to be named' Year 5/6 class will be taught by **Mrs Rebecca Williams** and **Mrs Lauren Griffiths**, both of whom know the children and school well. Mrs Griffiths brings extensive Upper Key Stage 2 experience and, as Acting Head of School, will be in school throughout the week, ensuring close oversight of children's learning, wellbeing and preparation for secondary school. Mrs Williams will teach the class for three days each week and will also provide additional continuity and support on Mrs Griffiths' teaching days. Together, they provide a strong and experienced team with the highest expectations for every child.

Early Intervention Teacher

From September, we will also be introducing an **Early Intervention Teacher** role. This additional teacher will work across EYFS and Key Stage 1, providing targeted support and challenge for children, delivering small-group and individual interventions, and helping to ensure that children develop strong foundations in their early years at school. The role will provide additional teaching



capacity within the school, enabling us to respond quickly to children's needs and support all learners to make the best possible progress.

Maternity Returns

We are delighted that **Ms Harriet Roberts** and **Mrs Meg Weaver** will be returning from maternity leave during the academic year. Their return to part-time teaching roles in Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 respectively will further strengthen our experienced and talented teaching team. We will keep parents informed about timeframes.

Learning Mentor

We are pleased to increase **Ms Danni Martin's** time spent dedicated to the role of Learning Mentor. Danni will work closely with children, families and staff to provide pastoral support, promote emotional wellbeing and help remove barriers to learning, ensuring that all children are able to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Administrator

We welcome **Ms Lucy Samuels** to Whittington as our new School Administrator. Lucy joins us with a wealth of experience and will play an important role in supporting the smooth day-to-day running of the school and providing a warm welcome to children, families and visitors.

At the same time, we would like to thank **Ms Lucy Windsor** for her dedication and contribution to Whittington over recent years. Lucy will be leaving us to begin an exciting new chapter as she trains to become a qualified teacher. She will be greatly missed and we wish her every success in her future career.

SENCo

To further strengthen SEND provision across the school, Mrs Watkins will focus fully on her SENCo responsibilities during the autumn term. Mrs Kelly Watkins will not have a teaching commitment and will be using her skills and experience to support effective SEND provision across the school.

Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs)

Whittington is fortunate to have a number of experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) as part of our staff team. HLTAs are highly skilled support staff who work closely with teachers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing. They may lead learning with groups of children, deliver targeted interventions, provide additional support and challenge and sometimes



teach classes. Their expertise allows us to provide flexible, responsive support for children and helps ensure that all pupils receive the guidance and encouragement they need to succeed, both academically and personally. Our HLTAs are identified in the below structure.





Staffing Structure – Autumn 2026

Executive Headteacher: Mr Carl Rogers (in school Weds-Fri)

Acting Head of School: Mrs Lauren Griffiths (non-teaching Mon-Weds)

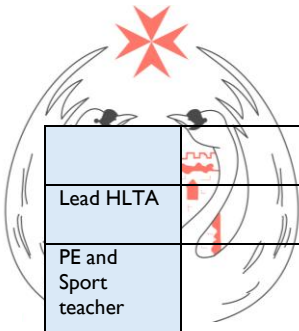
Head of SEND and Inclusion: Mrs Angela Poole

Federation Business Manager: Ms Suzanne Warner

SENDCo: Mrs Kelly Watkins

Administrator: Ms Lucy Samuels

Yr Group	Class Name	Teacher	Learning Support Assistants
Reception	Badger	Ms Tira Brown	Ms Natalie Lawrence Mrs Randeep Mann
Yr 1/2	Fern	Ms Alison Salmons	<i>Early Intervention Teacher</i> Ms Kirsty Roberts (HLTA) Ms Jasmine Evans Ms Alex Clark Mr Aidan Lo/ Mrs Abbey Conde Mrs Laura Hughes (Monday-Thursday)
Yr 1/2	Willow	Ms Nadine Jones	
Yr 3/4	Raven	Ms Melissa Prescott	
Yr 3/4	Kingfisher	Mrs Jen Simkin	Mrs Sam Clarke (HLTA) Mrs Louise Edwards
Yr 3/4	Magpie	Mrs Lisa Holmes	Mrs Anita Wear
Yr 5/6	<i>Class Name to be chosen by children</i>	Class will be taught by Mrs Rebecca Williams (Monday-Wednesday) and Mrs Lauren Griffiths (Thursday-Friday).	Mrs Helen Goodes (HLTA) Mrs Clare Frost (HLTA) Mrs Rebecca Williams (HLTA – Thursday/Friday)
Yr 5/6	Conker	Mr Sam Druce	Mrs Claire Chesters Ms Danni Martin (Friday)
Hub		Mrs Angela Poole	Mrs Amanda Taylor Mrs Maggie Williams Mrs Anita Wear Mrs Abbey Conde Mrs Adele Barry



			Mr Aidan Lo/ Ms Abbey Conde
Lead HLTA		Mrs Clare Frost	
PE and Sport teacher		Mr Ben Dawson	
Languages		Mrs Paloma Harrison	
Safeguarding and Wellbeing Leader		Mrs Rachel Vaughan (in school Monday am, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday pm)	
Learning Mentor		Ms Danni Martin	