

Dringhouses

Primary School | York

09/05/2023

Dear Families,

Here's a staffing update!

At the end of this academic year, we'll be very sad to be saying goodbye to both Clare Smith and Emily Robinson.

Clare has been at Dringhouses for many years, and has given so much to the school: as a staff, we all know her as the person who brings the zen, brings the joy, and brings the peace at the end of the week! No doubt many of you will also have had the pleasure of knowing Clare and having your children taught by her - she's departing for new adventures, and we wish her all the best for whatever she chooses to do next - we know she'll be an absolute asset to whoever is lucky enough to work with her in the future.

Emily joined Dringhouses as an NQT some 6 years ago, and has flourished into the wonderful teacher and integral part of the full-time team here! Emily's dedication to her classes, her enthusiasm, and organisation have been such a benefit to your children, and to the school more widely. Emily is relocating further north, and will be joining a new team at a primary school up there. We know she'll continue to do great things for more children and families lucky enough to meet her in her new position, and she will be much missed here by us all, and you all.

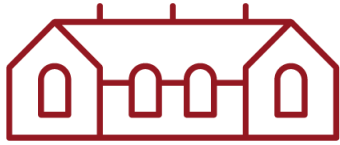
As you'll already be aware, Lizi Backhouse is already on maternity leave (and a very big Dringhouses welcome to the latest Backhouse, Billy!), and will be joined in two weeks by Lucy Hopkins. James Field will be taking Lucy's class (6), and we'll be filling those final Thursday and Fridays in Class 4 up to the end of the year with a supply teacher, or staff already known and available to us where possible.

We have hired several new recruits in their place, and in the place of our maternity leaves for the next academic year. Alice Eames will be joining us from a school in London (full-time teacher); Rob Gaines will be joining us from an international school in Vietnam (part-time teacher); Lisa Auckland will be joining us from Scarcroft School (full-time teacher). We have one further position to arrange, and will be letting families know classes and staff on the 5th July (transition day). It may be that in exceptional cases we will be working with families ahead of this date to provide additional levels of transition preparation where appropriate to ensure that children feel prepared for the



St. Helen's Road, York, YO24 1HW | 01904 553940

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next year. Taking over from Lucy Hopkins when she leaves in a couple of weeks will be James Field until the end of the year.

Additionally and somewhat slightly ahead of time, I'd like to let you all know that my family and I will be moving to New Zealand! If everything progresses as we hope, we'll be out there by January 2024. As many of you will already know, my wife Gem is a Kiwi, and we're taking the opportunity to move out ahead of our trio starting school. Exciting times for us, but obviously sad times to be leaving a warm and welcoming community that I've been a part of for the last three years here at Dringhouses. As I've said to staff, I'm saving the speeches until closer to my own leaving (End of December 2023/Autumn term), but I wanted to let you know ahead of time - the governors are making plans to ensure a smooth transition of leadership, and you'll be kept updated on changes as and when they happen.

See you on the playground,

Ben Sutton | Headteacher



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