



Westcroft
Stanhope
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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

12th March 2026

Re: Staffing Changes from 28th April 2026

I am delighted to confirm that Miss Hepple is returning from maternity leave on Tuesday 28th April 2026.

Miss Hepple will be returning to work on a phased plan teaching three days per week (Mon, Tues & Wed) for the summer term and then returning to work full time from 1st September 2026.

Miss Hepple will be teaching our Year 1&2 children in the Sapphire Learning Zone for the duration of the summer term. This teaching post will be shared with Mr Tatham who will be teaching in Sapphire on Thursday and Friday.

Both Miss Hepple and Mr Tatham will have a comprehensive handover from Miss Excell and will be spending time with the children before the Easter break.

Miss Excell came to us on a short term basis whilst she explored alternative careers as it is her intention to leave the teaching profession. Miss Excell fell in love with our school and our children and I will be forever grateful that she agreed to delay her career change in order to support us through this tricky academic year. Miss Excell is more than happy to remain in post until Tuesday 28th April when Miss Hepple returns to work if she is able to do so.

Summary:

Monday	Miss Hepple
Tuesday	Miss Hepple
Wednesday	Miss Hepple
Thursday	Mr Tatham
Friday	Mr Tatham

Mr Tatham will continue to teach our Year 6 children in the Diamond Learning Zone on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They will then be taught by Miss Hunter-Purvis on a Thursday and myself on a Friday (I already teach them half a day per week).

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Miss Hunter-Purvis is able to do this as we currently have a Trainee Teacher who is coming to the end of her training. Miss Wilson is an extremely strong teacher and will be teaching 80% of the timetable each week in the Ruby Learning Zone – still overseen by Miss HP.

Mr Tatham will be with Diamond for SATs week.

Summary:

Monday	Mr Tatham
Tuesday	Mr Tatham
Wednesday	Mr Tatham
Thursday	Miss Hunter-Purvis
Friday	Mrs Cross

I appreciate that it is not ideal to change staffing half way through an academic year however, with Miss Hepple returning part time and Miss Excell leaving us this has been necessary.

Please be assured that the SLT have taken their time to plan and consider the impact from every angle and we believe that this is the best option for staffing throughout the summer term.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Green, Mrs Quiney or Mrs Gurbillon).

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher