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Good morning families

This is a correspondence devoted (almost) entirely to welcomes! Firstly, it has been lovely to see all our pupils back in school this week, all dressed smartly and eager to learn with their new class friends and staff. Of course, an extra special welcome must go to our new Primary One pupils who have joined our Laurencekirk team and are at the early stages of a wonderful journey. They have settled in beautifully and we look forward to getting to know each and every pupil and of course their families. It is also wonderful to have our staff team back in the building making a difference to our pupils day in day out.

I would like to share a staffing update with you all today.

Senior Leadership Team

Firstly, we are thrilled to welcome Miss Caroline Duncan to the Senior Leadership Team. Miss Duncan is an experienced Depute Head Teacher and brings a wealth of skill and expertise to the role. Her commitment to achieving excellence is very clear and I am excited to work closely together in the coming year to lead the school forward.

Teaching Team

We welcome some new teachers to our school. Miss Dawn Melvin is teaching Primary 2/3 this term. Miss Melvin is replacing Mrs Alison Millard who is currently Acting Head Teacher at Johnshaven School. I am told by our pupils that Miss Melvin loves unicorns and rainbows making her an instant hit!

Mr Jonny Gordon had joined our school from Aberdeen City Council. Mr Gordon is covering non class contact time across the school which means he is working with lots of our children. He is covering a variety of curricular areas including physical education and learning for sustainability. Mr Gordon has a passion for teaching languages and is keen to spread his love of tennis to our pupils.

Mrs Charlotte Galloway is teaching in Primary 7 this year, ably supported by Mrs Katy Gavan. Mrs Galloway is our probationary teacher this year and we are delighted to have

her on board. Laurencekirk School is a supportive and nurturing environment for all to thrive – a great place to begin teaching in my opinion!

Nursery Team

Derryn Cameron and Kim Shearer have joined the Nursery Team. Ms Cameron and Ms Shearer have worked as Early Years Practitioners in other nurseries in our cluster and are excited to be a part of Laurencekirk Nursery. Our nursery provides the highest standard of early education and I am confident that Ms Cameron and Ms Shearer will contribute hugely to this.

Pupil Support Team

We are blessed with a highly skilled team of Pupils Support Assistants who help our children and staff in too many ways to count! I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Susan Ogg has been successful in securing a part time permanent position in school. Mrs Ogg has been with us on a voluntary and temporary basis for some time and we are delighted to have secured her services long term! Mrs Ogg is always smiling and goes above and beyond for our school, playing a key role in our Enhanced Provision and lunch club.

Gillian Woodland is also joining the team on a part time basis for the duration of this school year. Gillian has a wealth of experience in supporting children and families through her previous family support worker role.

Fond farewells

Nike Onyia is leaving us for pastures new. Nike and her family are embarking upon an exciting new chapter abroad. Mrs Onyia has done the most wonderful job covering both Mrs Honeybone's and Mrs Mackie's maternity leave and we are united in wishing her well in all future endeavours. Thank you Mrs Onyia.

Mrs Maggie Fisher is retiring from her post as Pupil Support Assistant. Maggie has worked in our school for 26 years and in that time has supported and encouraged hundreds of children to achieve their true potential. Maggie is a kind and compassionate person who goes above and beyond at all times driven by a determination to do the very best she can for our children. Maggie has a passion for books and reading and loves to share this with the children. She loves looking after the library and takes great pride in the space. We will truly miss Maggie. However, I know that Mrs Fisher will be back in the library once Covid restrictions lift, this time as a volunteer. We will all be delighted to see her. In the meantime, I would like to thank Maggie for her service to our school, our children and our community and wish her a happy retirement. Maggie you are a star!

Finally...

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. The first week back is always a shock to the system as we all ease ourselves back into routine, so long lies all round!

Kindest Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher