

Friday 26th June 2026,

New Classes, New Teachers and Goodbyes!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year, I am pleased to share with you our class structure and some important staffing updates for September.

This year also brings something a little special... brand-new class names, while still celebrating our much-loved coastal and sea theme. We are excited for the children to take pride in their new class identities!

Class Structure for 2026–2027

Starfish Class (Nursery & Reception)

Class Teachers: Miss Pettit and Mrs McLean

Support Staff: Miss Bradley, Mrs Trinnaman-Goss, Mrs Henebery, Miss Walton

Turtles Class (Year 1 & Year 2)

Class Teacher: Miss Spence

Support Staff: Miss Walker, Mrs Barrack, Miss Webster and Mr Heeley

Manta Rays Class (Year 3 & Year 4)

Class Teacher: Mr Whenman

Support Staff: Mrs Osbourne and Miss Simpson

Orcas Class (Year 5 & Year 6)

Class Teacher: Mr Shaw

Support Staff: Miss Pearson and Miss Upton

There will be an opportunity after school on Tuesday 21st July at 3:10–3:45 to meet your child's new class teacher.

This is a chance to introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have. Alternatively, if you wish to have a 1:1 meeting with your child's new class teacher, then please make an appointment via the office for a time to meet or to arrange a phone call during the school day on Wednesday 22nd July.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Exciting News and Celebrations

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Whenman as our new class teacher for Manta Rays Class. Mr Whenman is relocating from York back to his hometown, and we are absolutely thrilled to welcome him to our academy community. He brings with him a real passion for teaching and learning and a drive to inspire children to achieve their very best. We cannot wait for you all to meet him.

It also gives me great pleasure to share that Mr. Shaw has been promoted to Assistant Principal, starting this role in September. This is so richly deserved. Mr. Shaw is an exceptional teacher and role model who consistently goes above and beyond for our pupils and staff. His calm, thoughtful leadership and clear ambition for the academy will strengthen our team even further. We are incredibly fortunate to have him stepping into this role.

Saying Goodbye

As many of you are aware, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Worthington, who is moving on to another school. We do so with heavy hearts. She is a truly special teacher who cares deeply for every child and has dedicated herself to securing the very best outcomes for our Ingoldmells pupils. Her kindness, professionalism and commitment will be greatly missed. Quite simply, this is our loss and very much their gain.

We are also saying farewell to the unforgettable Mrs Buttress, who is retiring after an incredible 26-year career in education.

Mrs Buttress now begins an exciting new chapter, where we know she will be making the very most of her time with her family, especially her beautiful granddaughter, Madeleine, who will no doubt enjoy every moment of that undivided attention, care and love that Mrs Buttress gives so generously.

During her years with us, Mrs Buttress has made an extraordinary impact. She is the kind of teacher who changes lives—someone who inspires children to do better, think bigger and always try their best. With her strong moral compass, unwavering dedication and enormous heart, she has shaped not just learning, but character.

Now, it would be impossible not to mention her “famous” expression—because, as we all know, there has long been a running joke that Mrs Buttress never smiles! Those who know her well will tell you the truth: behind that wonderfully serious look is one of the kindest, warmest and most supportive people you could ever hope to meet.

Of course, there have been moments—particularly on homework day—when that look alone has been enough to strike just a little fear into the room... but always followed by laughter, reassurance and her trademark good humour! Because in reality, Mrs Buttress brings joy, consistency and care into every classroom she leads.

She builds relationships based on respect, honesty and humour, and she is deeply admired by both pupils and colleagues. I have only had the privilege of working with her for a short time, but her wisdom and guidance have been invaluable.

And we cannot forget another of her many talents—her baking. Mrs Buttress’ delicious treats (especially that legendary carrot cake!) have been enjoyed by many over the years and will be very much missed. That said, with all this new free time, we are quietly hoping “cakes on wheels” might become her next venture—and we will happily be her first customers! We’ll keep the kettle ready just in case!

We thank her sincerely for the incredible contribution she has made—not just here, but across her entire career. So many children have benefitted from her teaching, and we are proud that our pupils have been among them. She will be greatly missed by us all.

As we move into the new academic year, we embrace these changes with optimism and ambition as we continue to drive the academy forward, always keeping your children at the heart of every decision we make.

Warmest Regards

Miss J Howden
(Principal)



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