



20 January 2026

## Reception Blue Class

---

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to outline the arrangements we are putting in place to support your child following the news that Ms Thompson will need to undergo emergency back surgery at the end of next week.

As some parents may be aware, Ms Thompson has been managing a long-standing back condition over the past year, with periods of absence while under the care of a medical consultant. Although she has worked hard to return to school this academic year, her doctors have now made the decision to bring her operation forward. This means she will be absent from school until March. We wish her a smooth operation and a speedy recovery, and the children have been spoken to today so that they are aware.

In anticipation of this, we advertised in December for a Reception class teacher to provide cover during this period of absence. At the same time, we also advertised for an Early Years Lead to support the phase when Mrs Padgham begins her maternity leave in the summer term. We have had a strong field of applicants and are currently in the process of interviewing and appointing. I will write to you again shortly to introduce new staff members, with photographs and clear details about handover and transition arrangements.

In the interim, we have ensured that continuity and stability remain a priority. Mrs Padgham has temporarily taken additional children into her class (with only 36 children across the cohort this year), and Mrs Doughty is completing her HLTA qualification, enabling her to cover classes and support ratios effectively. I would also like to recognise Mrs Lovett, who has been providing excellent continuity and care for Blue Class during this period – the classroom is looking incredible and she's worked so hard on this learning environment.

Please be assured that we are taking careful steps to ensure that children continue to receive high-quality provision, support and consistency during this time.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

DJ Constable-Phelps .

Mr D Constable-Phelps  
Executive Headteacher