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Tuesday 12th September 2023

Lightyear Federation Summer Update: Change to School Day – Subject Specialists – Your Views

Dear Families,









Please be aware that I will be absent from both schools for the next fortnight taking my paternity leave following the birth of my second son, Ewan. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly when I return on Monday 25th September exehead@lightyear.kent.sch.uk or contact either school and address for my attention. During this two-week period, Jackie Chambers (Head of School - Repton) and Jaclyn Kay (Head of School – Greatstone) will be at both their schools as usual.

A (very) warm welcome

It has been a great start to the year (albeit very hot at times – don't forget the sunblock, water and hats) and a warm welcome to our new children starting in reception classes at both schools. The relaunch of the Early Years area at Greatstone has only been possible due to the hard work of the staff over the summer holidays but it is clear it has all been worthwhile, thank you all. Thank you all for the lovely feedback to staff at both schools too, it shows what caring communities we serve that they remember to feedback the positives too.

Staff working across both schools here to help

We are now beginning our second year of the Lightyear Federation and we would like to make you aware of the staff that are in post or have recently been recruited to work across both Greatstone and Repton Manor to support you and your child.

	Phil White has been appointed as Estates Manager across both schools, you will see him on the car park gates in term 1 and he has already got stuck into his long action list at both schools.		Kier Starley has already started as Sports Specialist at both schools and we are seeing the children really enjoying some fantastic physical education. Kier is speaking very highly of children from both communities.
	Hannah Ferris is our Safeguarding & Pastoral Director so if you have any questions or concerns about your child's emotional needs or would like any guidance/support on your child or family matters just call.		Casey Brett is our Art Specialist and is already known by many children in both schools. She will be working with the children and also training and leading our Arts Assistants.
	Louise Summers leads as our Inclusion Director so she will be able to help with any matters regarding Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. This can include any additional learning support, personal or academic.		Sarah Hardy will continue as a super teaching assistant but also has taken on the role of Arts Assistant and is already excited about possible projects this year at Repton Manor.
	Vikki Reeves is Business Director including any finance, funding and personnel aspects. Vikki is also overseeing extended care so breakfast and after-school clubs and would like to develop holiday clubs for our communities.		Amy Campbell will be working one day a week at Greatstone as Arts Assistant and was really happy to be able to experience working at both schools as she will continue as Teaching Assistant at Repton.

Your Views

Thank you to all the parents that contributed to the survey at the end of last year, there were some trends that we could identify and have included as recognised strengths and priorities for us all to address this year. It was interesting to see that the same strengths and priorities were identified in both schools. Please see below for the trends to be included in our Plan.

Parent Survey	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Relationships• Play & Inclusion• Leadership Teams	Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Consistency of behaviour• Core Subjects
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Kind regards

Matt Rawling