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Mrs Lisa Goodland Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers.

We hope that you are keeping safe during these uncertain times.

We are writing to provide you with further information about how the school will operate from September 2020 and hopefully to address some of the concerns raised by parents recently. Naturally, we will be keeping up to date with Government guidance over the summer months and will therefore have more information about the children's return to school in the new academic year nearer the time.

Class Structure from September 2020

Year groups	Class name	Number of children in the class	Teacher and LSA
Reception and Year 1	Merlin	28	Miss N Grant, Mrs Hoddinott and Miss Tracey (Apprentice)
Year 1 and Year 2	Pendragon	28	Miss H Elliot (until Mrs Berkley returns from her maternity leave by February) and Mrs Elsworth (returning from maternity leave) (Monday – Wednesday) and Mrs James (Thursday and Friday)
Year 2 and Year 3	King Arthur	29	Miss C Tumelty, Mrs Parker (Monday – Thursday AM) Mrs Spiller (Thursday PM) and Mrs England (Friday)
Year 4 and Year 5	Excalibur	29	Mrs H Trusson (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs J Walmsley (Thursday and Friday) and Mrs Spiller (Monday – Thursday)
Year 5 and 6	Lancelot	29	Mr T Fremlin and Mrs Collins

Total pupil numbers: 143

We understand that this structure may have caused some concern for some parents. However, you will notice that class numbers are below 30 and the adult child ratio is high. Naturally in a village school with such numbers in each cohort, the school organisation is changeable each year to make sure that the best provision is made for the children with the funding available to the school. We will ensure that information about class structure and cohorts will be published on the school website and in the school prospectus so that prospective parents will have this knowledge to enable an informed decision.

Please be assured that we are confident that the standard of education that children receive at Countess Gytha is now at least 'Good' in the judgment of Ofsted and that children's education will not be disadvantaged by being in a mixed aged class. During the time that Countess Gytha has been supported by the Preston Primary Academy Trust, standards within the school have improved considerably and will no

doubt rise further in future years. We know that Mrs Goodland will provide further details about standards when she publishes information about the academic performance of the children in the school before the end of the academic year.

Communication with parents

We believe that frequent and transparent communication is central to successful and happy school communities and this is how we will work. A newsletter will be emailed home fortnightly and this and all letters to parents will be uploaded to the newly designed school website which will go live shortly. We believe that this will ensure that parents are aware of all that is happening in the school and our reasoning for decisions that have been taken.

Countess Gytha parents Facebook page

The support that Countess Gytha parents offer is an unquestionable strength of our school and we look forward to embracing this support throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

It has come to our attention that there is a Countess Gytha Parents group that is used to discuss school matters. More recently this page has become a tool in which some parents have raised concerns. As a positive reminder *"This is a page for school events and reminders, fundraising and supporting each other as parents at the school, not for in depth discussions on school matters"*.

We have faith that social media is an excellent tool which has a variety of positive uses and it will be embraced for the good of Countess Gytha. As Heads of the school we will be available daily to discuss concerns in person or via a telephone call.

Staff

We are delighted that there is a full complement of highly skilled staff employed at Countess Gytha for September. It has been regrettable that there has been a high turnover of staff in the Year 3-4 classroom but please be aware that teachers only have to give a half term notice before they leave the employment of the school. It is always hoped that teachers will remain at the school for a full academic year.

As you know we will continue provision for music, supported by Mrs Boniface. Due to the current class organisation, there will also be some funds available to enhance provision in other curriculum areas. The children in all year groups will be taught at a point throughout the year Art and DT with Mr Plumbley or other talented artists and we are exploring other opportunities to develop further areas of the curriculum, including IT.

Parents Meeting

Mrs Thompson and I look forward to meeting with parents and will send a suggested date and time when it is safe to do so. In this meeting there will be the opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions.

We are looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Assuring you of our best intentions.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher



Mrs Lisa Thompson
Head Teacher



Mrs Lisa Goodland
Head Teacher



Countess Gytha
Local Governing Body