



## Primary School – Back to School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

August 2018

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to school and hope that you and your families enjoyed the summer break and were able to spend some quality time together. We would like to extend a special welcome to all of the new students and families who will be joining us this term and sincerely hope that you enjoy our friendly and supportive atmosphere. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August and meeting you at (or before) our Junior and Infant Orientation Evenings on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September, respectively.

Our staff have come back from the holidays refreshed and ready for a new year of learning. They have been busy preparing the school and planning for engaging and outstanding learning opportunities to start off the new year for our students. Our Year Group Leaders will be sending you information about the upcoming learning objectives in each year group.

### School upgrades

We have been very fortunate to have been able to update and modernise a number of School areas

*Kitchen and Canteen / After School Care area:* These have been completely stripped out and upgraded with up to date appliances and furniture. We hope that this will facilitate a much more pleasant eating environment for the students. After School Care will also benefit from the improvements. (Please note that the storage for lunchboxes has been delayed at Customs and therefore, students should take lunchboxes to classrooms until further notice).

*Outdoor Classroom:* The old climbing equipment has been replaced with a purpose built outdoor classroom. This will be used for teaching a number of areas, instruction in PE, Art, Science, reading, etc. It will also be a quiet and shaded area for break and lunchtimes for our students. Our Student Council will be deciding upon further enhancements for the space, including whiteboards, tables and appropriate activities.



### Outdoor Classroom

All inside and outside areas, walls, display boards, etc. have been painted and refreshed so the School is looking great!

We wish to extend sincere appreciation and thanks to our facilities and maintenance teams who have worked throughout the holidays to ensure that the school is ready.

*Field, Adventure Trail and Basketball shootout:* A new Adventure Trail has been built at one end of the field and the remainder of the field will be split into various pitches / games areas. Areas around the field have been upgraded with high quality rubber mulch and this will also be installed beneath the play equipment. Shade sails will cover the whole of this end area. Unfortunately, there has been a short delay with the equipment installation and shade. The equipment will be ready by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with shade being installed as early in Term 1 as possible. A HUGE thanks to all who supported our PTA last School year to raise funds towards this exciting project.



**Adventure Trail ... almost ready!**



# CAYMAN PREP & HIGH SCHOOL

**Continuing our Journey of Excellence...** As well as investing heavily in upgrading facilities and resources, we are also very excited to have some new and outstanding staff members join us this year. A short introduction to each new staff member can be found towards the end of the newsletter. Please find overall staff allocation for this year.

## Primary Staff Allocation 2018 – 2019

### Senior Leadership Team

<b>School Director</b>	Debbie McLaughlin		<b>Primary School Principal</b>	Trish Taylor	
<b>Primary School Deputy Principal</b>	Steve Coles <i>Pastoral Head of Year 6</i>	<b>Head of Assessment, Inclusion and Staff Development</b>	Stuart Janes <i>Pastoral Head of Year 1, 3 and 5</i>	<b>Head of Curriculum, Learning and Teaching</b>	Natasha Chopra <i>Pastoral Head of KG, Year 2 and 4</i>

### Class Teachers (YG Leaders in bold)

	<b>C</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Kg</b>	Nicola Astley	<b>Kelly Cowling</b>	Clare Dyett
<b>Y1</b>	Monique Roberts	Colleen Coles	<b>Lorna Bailey</b>
<b>Y2</b>	Danielle Jackson	Julie Bain	<b>Katie Lavelle</b>
<b>Y3</b>	<b>Catherine Kenny</b>	Catherine Hinds	Rebecca Wilson
<b>Y4</b>	<b>Toby Wade</b>	Julie Cheriton	Kim Calverley
<b>Y5</b>	Tessa Jones	Carrie Bee	<b>Caroline Johnston</b>
<b>Y6</b>	Rebecca Carr	Birch Abrams-Menko	<b>Paul Hefferon</b>

### Specialist Teachers (Dept Leader in bold)

<b>Computing</b>	<b>Will Sutton</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Ems Melland</b>
<b>MFL</b>	Hannah Smye	<b>MFL</b>	Tanya Nelson-Hugson
<b>PE</b>	<b>Claire Hughes</b>	<b>PE</b>	Quincy Clark
<b>SfL / SENCO</b>	<b>Libby Reynolds</b>	<b>SfL</b>	Sian Hawkes <i>* Maternity - Roxette Phillips</i>
<b>SfL</b>	Vanda Fernandez	<b>SfL</b>	Brenda Bryce
<b>Counsellor</b>	Shane Blake	<b>Librarian</b>	Lindsay McGill

### Learning Assistants (Leader in Bold)

	<b>C</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Kg</b>	Latoya Walton	Donna Sullivan	Anna Gibson
<b>Y1</b>	Junette Walters	Mollie Heinicke	Marline Whyte
<b>Y2</b>	Belinda Rice	Kayla Manderson	Joshua Clark
<b>Y3 / Y4</b>	Jenny Morgan and Nancy Oram		
<b>Y5 / Y6</b>	<b>Lucy Janes</b> and Elizabeth Riley		

### Office / Maintenance Staff

### After School Care

<b>Office Manager and Admissions Officer</b>	<b>Tracey McComb</b>	<b>After School Care Leader</b>	<b>Zsuzsana Strommer</b>
<b>Administration Assistant / Reception</b>	Sherine Stewart	<b>After School Care Supervisor</b>	Carol Shaw
<b>Accounts Assistant</b>	Kelly Corbin	<b>After School Care Assistants</b>	Corine Renis and Luraine Freeman
<b>School Nurse</b>	Emily Harrison	<b>Canteen Supervisor</b>	Luraine Freeman
<b>Maintenance Manager</b>	<b>Edison Manderson</b>	<b>Maintenance Team</b>	Durgha Ramsahoi Ken Stewart Jester Manderson





## Parking and Security

We will have extra Security on hand to assist with the busy drop off and pick up times. Please follow their instructions as they are there to ensure safety and efficiency. At the beginning of term, it is normally busier than usual. We kindly request that you use the drop off zones, where possible, and if you do have to enter the school with your child, that you depart as soon as possible, in order to free up parking space for others.

## Attendance

Excellent school attendance is one of the best ways of preparing a student for success both in and out of the classroom. It promotes healthy life habits and supports academic attainment. A student with a high attendance record is more likely to feel settled within their school community and is better equipped to develop important social skills and friendships. Students who miss just a couple of school days per month are more likely to fall behind their peers both academically and socially. With this in mind the Cayman Islands Office of Education Standards has provided new expectations on what is considered excellent, satisfactory and weak attendance. These criteria will be used during their upcoming School Inspections. Please see below:

**Excellent:** Attendance for each term is at least 98%. Students are punctual in arriving at school and for lessons throughout the day.

**Satisfactory:** Attendance for each term is at least 94%. Students are punctual both at the start of the start of the day and following transitions.

**Weak:** Attendance is below 94% per term. The student regularly arrives late to school and for lessons.

## Extended Holiday Requests

As a learning-focused school, we strongly discourage removing students from school outside of the designated holiday period as this has a negative impact on student learning and routine.

Under Cayman Islands Education Law, student absence will be recorded as excused in cases of illness and certain serious matters relating to family circumstances. Other reasons, such as holiday requests, will result in the absence being recorded as notified but not excused.

Under Cayman Islands Education Law, the school is obligated to report weak attendance or prolonged unexcused absence to The Education Truancy Officer.

For more information on the importance of School Attendance, visit [absencesaddup.org](http://absencesaddup.org)

## Parent Information

A copy of our Primary Parent Handbook which contains all relevant information and contact details will be sent out to you electronically and will also be located on the School's website this week.

Should you require to advise us of any medical issues, prior to your child starting school, please email or call Nurse Emily [emily.harrison@cayprep.edu.ky](mailto:emily.harrison@cayprep.edu.ky) Tel. no. 9496932

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of our team should you have any suggestions or require further clarification on any school-related matter. Please continue to read our introduction to the new staff.

Kind regards,  
Trish Taylor,  
Primary Principal  
[psprincipal@cayprep.edu.ky](mailto:psprincipal@cayprep.edu.ky)





**Julie Bain, Year 2 Teacher, 2P**

I was born and raised here in the Cayman Islands. I graduated from University of South Florida in 2005 with a Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education. In 2008, I completed my Masters degree in International Education from the University of London's Institute of Education. In the classroom, I like to engage my learners by getting down to their level and appealing to interest and varied learning styles. In addition to teaching, my passions are reading, music and spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy exploring new ways to teach or present information. I'm delighted to be joining the team here at Cayman Prep and High.



**Tessa Jones, Year 5 Teacher, 5C**

Originating from North Wales, I am a fluent Welsh speaker. Previous to last year's consecutive, maternity covers at CPHS, I spent three and a half years, as a Class Teacher at a school rated as outstanding in the North West of England. I gained my teaching degree at Bangor University in North Wales, where I specialised in Primary Education. In my previous role at CPHS, I taught Music and MFL. Those experiences gave me a wonderful insight into the school and the children within our care. Now I am really looking forward to solely focusing on being a class teacher; something I am extremely passionate about returning to. I am a firm believer that learning should be fun and engaging with the child's needs and interests at the centre of it all. My aim is to help develop independent and motivated learners for the future, through scaffolding and tailored support, giving each individual the best chance of success.



**Rebecca Carr, Year 6 Teacher, 6C**

I am pleased to be taking on the role of Year 6 teacher at Cayman Prep and High School; I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received so far and I'm looking forward to my first year on the island. Originally, I am from Nottingham, in the UK, and I completed my teaching degree at the University of Plymouth. So far in my career, I have taught Year 5 for two years and Year 6 for four years. Alongside my teaching role, I have experience in leading literacy across school. In my free time, I love to take part in water sports and exercise classes. I am also a keen ice hockey fan but with the current climate, I might have to find a new sport to follow! I'm looking forward to getting fully immersed into island life and having the privilege to work with the Cayman Prep families.



**Roxette Phillips, Support for Learning Teacher (Maternity cover September - November)  
Year 3 Teacher, 3C (Maternity cover – November - February)**

It is a pleasure to be joining Cayman Prep and High School this year and I cannot wait to immerse myself into the new school year. In the UK, I have been teaching in London and Devon as a class teacher and for the past 4 years I have been an English lead teacher. As a class teacher, I have taught across the KS2 phase and last year, I taught Year 2 and led phonics across the school. Having studied English and Education at university, my passion lies with all aspects of Reading and Writing and developing a love of Literacy for lifelong learning. I am passionate about teaching and enjoy getting to know the children so that I can help them to achieve their potential and develop confidence in their learning. This year, I will be studying for a Masters in Psychology to further my understanding of children's learning and development. Outside of school, I enjoy keeping active by playing netball and cricket, as well as surfing. I look forward to the start of the school year and watching the children flourish.



**Donna Sullivan, Kindergarten Learning Assistant, KGP**

I am very excited to be joining Cayman Prep & High School as a Learning Assistant in Mrs Cowling's Kindergarten Class! I refer to my new role at CPHS as "coming a full circle" as CPHS was the first school I taught at when I arrived on the island in 1991. I have twenty four years of teaching experience within both Canada and Grand Cayman with twelve of those years being an Early Childhood teacher. My Early Childhood teaching experiences have included working with ages two, three and four year olds. I must admit though, that four year olds are my favourite age group, and which is where most of my EC experience has been. I did take a break from teaching several years ago and worked as an administrator in a hedge fund company on the island, however, I am happy back to be in a classroom setting. I look forward to watching these young Kindergarten children grow, learn and discover new things about the world around them during this academic year!



**Latoya Walton, Kindergarten Learning Assistant, KGC**

It is my utmost pleasure to join Cayman Prep and High School. I have been living in the Cayman Islands for the past five years. I am originally from Jamaica where I completed my Bachelor of Education at the University of Technology Jamaica. Due to my endless love for teaching, I am currently pursuing my Master of Education with University of the West Indies Open Campus, which I expect to complete in 2019. This school year will be my fourth year as an educator, working with the early year learners. One of my favorite subject to teach is phonics. Also, I enjoy developing students' phonological skills. My mission as an educator is to help students discover their potential and develop the joy of learning.



**Joshua Clark, Learning Assistant Year 2, 2H**

I have been living in Cayman since I was 5 years old. I was a student at Cayman Prep school and then went on to complete my Honours Degree at the University of the West of England, in Bristol. Since graduating I have worked as a teacher in primary and high schools across Thailand and have taught rugby in the UK. I now own a farm in North Side. On the farm we have lots of animals from piglets, to goats to chickens. We have many students of all different age groups that come to visit the farm, which is a lot of fun. We eat most of our dinners using our produce from the farm too! After spending many months of educating children in our outdoor learning environment, I felt that it was time to develop more professionally as an educator. Alongside working in Year 2, I will also be completing my PGCE. I look forward to getting to know all the personalities in my classroom and cannot wait for my first year at Cayman Prep!



**Jenny Morgan, Learning Assistant, Year 3 and Year 4**

I'm looking forward to working alongside the Year 3 and 4 teachers as one of this year's Learning Assistants. Cayman has been my home for ten years now. I love the island and the people with which I get to meet and work. I've worked as a classroom teacher for a number of years both here in Cayman and in New Zealand. I have strengths in identifying children's learning needs and creating meaningful opportunities for learning to occur. I am particularly passionate about literacy as it is the foundation for all future learning. I'm looking forward to getting to know the students of Cayman Prep and helping them to be excited about learning. The saying "it takes a village to raise a child" resonates with me as I strongly believe that students, parents, teachers, support staff and the wider community all play an important role in raising a child. I'm looking forward to being a part of this village here at Cayman Prep.



**Nancy Oram, Learning Assistant, Year 3 and Year 4**

I worked at Cayman Prep and High School as a maternity cover for Year 2 last year and thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I Graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada with a Bachelor of Education (Primary) Degree in 1989. I have taught numerous grades within the Primary/Elementary areas throughout the past 25 years. I moved to the Cayman Islands last year and enjoy the Island very much! In my spare time I like to explore, walk, read and crafts. My personal goal for my role is to challenge students and watch them grow to their full potential, keeping in mind each student is unique! I believe it's my job to empower students and help them make a positive contribution to the world.