Classes 2026-2027

Information regarding your child's new class for the next academic year is detailed below. We publish this in advance of the end of year report so that we can give additional support to children for transition where it is needed.

The decisions as to the destination of each class for September is a lengthy process. The Leadership Team looks at the needs of individuals within each class and the unique nature of the class as a group. We then look at the skills and expertise of teachers, carefully match these up and develop the complex jigsaw.

The school is organised into three teams and, within these teams, teachers work very closely together to facilitate team planning, approaches and resourcing, thus enhancing the quality of education for your child. Class teachers are supported by TAs, HLTAs and additional teaching staff who all work together to support learning across the year group.

Lower School Team:	The Orchard Nursery, YR, Y1	Team Leader: Mrs Emma Gorman
Middle School Team:	Y2, Y3 and Y4	Team Leader: Mrs Karen Duke
Upper School Team :	Y5 and Y6	Team Leader: Miss Alice Farmer

With this letter you will find pen portraits and photos to assist you in recognising your child's class teacher. You will also be able to find out more about the teachers within the year group. The map at the end of the document will also help you locate new classrooms.

This information has been shared with the children today and they have had the opportunity to reflect on the challenges and successes of the year that has passed as well as what they are looking forward to in the next year group. One key focus of that conversation has been about the opportunities the new start in September will bring. The children will join their new teachers for transition activities on Thursday 2nd July and Wednesday 15th July. Parents and Carers will have the opportunity to visit new classrooms during Open Evening on Wednesday 15th July and also in September.

After careful consideration, we have placed classes with the following class teachers next year:

Current Class	Yr	Current Teacher(s)	2026/2027		2026/2027 Teachers
Orchard Nursery	YN	Mrs Emma Gorman + new pupils from other settings	**Bumblebee**	**R**	**Mr Jon Dolman (2 days) Mrs Kylie Waters (3 days)**
Bumblebee	YR	Mr Jon Dolman / Mrs Kylie Waters	**Butterfly**	**Y1**	**Miss Lily Sewell**
Butterfly	Y1/2	Miss Idziak	**Skylark**	**Y2/Y3**	**Mrs Lucy Dean (4days) Mr Jon Dolman (1day)**
Ladybird	Y1/2	Mrs Jannice Boot /Mrs Karen Duke	**Heron**	**Y2/Y3**	**Miss Izabela Idziak**
Dragonfly	Y1/2	Miss Lily Sewell	**Avocet**	**Y2/Y3**	**Mrs Emma Lee**
Avocet	Y3	Mrs Emma Lee	**Robin**	**Y4**	**Mrs Kim Hartnell**
Heron	Y3	Mrs Lucy Dean	**Kingfisher**	**Y4**	**Mrs Jannice Boot (3 days) Mrs Alex Thomas (2 days)**
Kingfisher	Y4	Mrs Katherine Luker / Mrs Charlie Lawton	**Elm**	**Y5**	**Miss Alice Farmer (4 days) Mrs Alex Thomas (1 day)**
Robin	Y4	Mrs Kim Hartnell	**Chestnut**	**Y5**	**Mrs Charlie Lawton (3 days) Mrs Katherine Luker (2 days)**
Chestnut	Y5	Miss Bryony Pruett	**Sycamore**	**Y6**	**Mr Richard Nutbeam**
Elm	Y5	Mr Sam Ellis	**Oak**	**Y6**	**Miss Bryony Pruett**

Staffing Changes and updates:

At the end of the year we shall be saying farewell to Mr Sam Ellis, one of our Year 5 class teachers, who is leaving us to pursue a promotion at another Torbay school. We wish him all the best in the next steps of his career and thank him for his valuable contributions to the Shiphay team this year.

We will be welcoming Mrs Thomas back to school as she returns from Maternity leave.

You will notice that the TA allocations have not yet been finalised. Again, once this information is complete, we will share this with you.

Teacher Pen Portraits 2026/2027

Lower School Team (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)

NURSERY

Mrs Emma Gorman - Nursery (Lower School Team Leader)

I first joined Shiphay in 2006 as a student teacher on the Devon SCITT course and was delighted to become a Year 3 teacher soon afterwards. Since then, I have taught across Year 6, Year 4 and Nursery, and I am now proud to be an Assistant Headteacher, Team Leader, English Lead and Early Years Lead.

Before becoming a teacher, I studied at Dartington College of Arts, gaining a First Class Honours degree in Performance Writing and a Master's with Distinction in Visual Performance. Since then, I have continued to develop my skills and knowledge through a range of professional qualifications in teaching, leadership, literacy, early years and headship.

Creativity has always been at the heart of who I am. My love of stories, language, imagination and the arts is something I enjoy bringing into the classroom every day.

I feel very privileged to support our youngest children as they begin their school journey. I believe every child is unique, full of potential and naturally curious about the world around them.

My aim is to create a warm, caring and inspiring environment where children feel safe, happy and excited to learn. Through play, exploration and meaningful experiences, I want children to grow in confidence, develop friendships and build happy memories that will stay with them for years to come.

RECEPTION TEACHERS

Mr Jon Dolman - Bumblebee (Thur-Fri)

Since I joined the Shiphay Team 11 years ago, I have taught in Year 1, Year 5, Year 4 and Reception. I really enjoy teaching in Early Years and seeing the huge advances that children make in their learning journeys. I especially like teaching phonics and seeing the children turn into independent readers over the course of the year. I also get an immense amount of satisfaction from helping to support the Reception children in their personal, social and emotional development which is key to shaping how they approach the future whilst here at Shiphay.

My motivation to teach stems from my experiences in my previous military career, where nine years were spent in instructional positions. These included instructing new recruits in engineering and training soldiers on their trade course at the School of Military Engineering. When I left the military I was successful in gaining a place on the 'Troops to Teachers programme'. My teacher training was split between academic study, gaining a First Class Honours Degree in Primary Education Studies, with Brighton University and working in Shiphay Learning Academy for four days a week.

Since I joined the Shiphay team, I have had the opportunity to set up and run a successful Forest Club, which has allowed me to share my love of the outdoors with the children. I had the opportunity to work in many

places around the world while I was in the army and had the chance to experience many different things, from working with the Kenyan Wildlife Service, helping to save rhinos, to looking for a lost Inca city in Bolivia. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction when I can use my experiences to immerse the children in their learning.

In my spare time, I enjoy keeping as healthy as possible by cycling and sea swimming most days. I also get very excited when out foraging for fungi and find some choice edibles.

Mrs Kylie Waters - Bumblebee (Mon-Wed)

I began my teaching career in Essex where I taught for 5 years, before returning to my Devon roots and joining the Shiphay team in 2013. I have been fortunate to teach a range of year groups, but Reception makes my heart sing, so I'm delighted to be teaching in Early Years on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It is a privilege to be trusted with some of the youngest members of the school on their wonderful learning journey.

In my classroom, I offer a nurturing, fun, welcoming and safe place where the children feel a sense of belonging, excitement and desire to learn in many different creative ways. I enjoy offering a creative and engaging curriculum and seek to provide opportunities to strengthen and develop learning across all areas of the curriculum, with particular enthusiasm for early reading and phonics. Play based learning is one of the most important and effective ways to help children develop and grow into the unique and wonderful people that they are, and something I advocate for to develop lifelong learners.

I am qualified in Level 2 Makaton and love to use this form of communication everyday in my classroom with all children. I look forward to getting to know each of the children to be able to explore and develop together.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role at Shiphay is mentoring trainee teachers. I take great pride in supporting aspiring educators, guiding them as they grow in confidence and expertise, and helping them reach their full potential.

In my spare time, I love to spend time with my 3 young children and going on plenty of adventures! I'm also a keen netballer and love walking & hiking! I love to read and hope to instil a love of reading in the children that I teach.

Year 1

Miss Lily Sewell - Butterfly

I completed my 2 years ECT at Shiphay and have just finished my first full year as a fully qualified teacher. I am excited to continue my journey at Shiphay.

In my time at Shiphay I have enjoyed teaching Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and I am really looking forward to having the opportunity to teach Butterfly this year. I am excited to watch the children learn and grow in Year 1.

I am continuing to learn British Sign Language as well as Makaton, which I hope to bring into my teaching and the provision in order to promote inclusion for all children as well as parents and staff. I enjoy creating a safe and nurturing classroom environment for all children where the children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum but I especially enjoy Phonics and literacy, as I believe early Reading forms a strong foundation for all other subjects in the National Curriculum. Specialising in Early Years

has allowed me to see the transition from the EYFS to the National Curriculum.

When I'm not teaching in school, you will usually find me reading or taking long walks along the coastal paths with my family. I also enjoy going on ski holidays and have previously taken part in competitive ski racing.

Specialist Provision

Mrs Teree Phillips - The Burrow

I have worked in education for 23 years and have been employed at Shiphay for the last 7 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in The Burrow, our specialist provision, and I am excited to be continuing in this role next year.

I am passionate about working with children with SEND and find it incredibly rewarding to see the progress they make throughout the year. I believe every child should feel valued, supported and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

I particularly enjoy teaching a sensory-based curriculum, creating engaging and meaningful learning experiences that meet the individual needs of each child. I believe that hands-on, practical learning helps children to develop confidence, curiosity and independence while allowing them to explore, communicate and express themselves in ways that work best for them.

The Burrow is a safe, welcoming environment where everyone is valued and feels part of a team. Developing confidence, taking risks and learning from mistakes are celebrated as important steps in becoming aspirational, independent learners.

In my spare time, I can often be found with my nose stuck in a book, enjoying long walks with my family and our two mischievous cockerpoos, Poppy and Penny.

Middle School Team (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4)

Mrs Karen Duke (Middle School Team Leader)

I became Deputy Headteacher at Shiphay in 2009 andI have taught predominantly in Reception, Y1 and Y2. I enjoy working with children of all ages in school, supporting them to become confident, independent young people with a love of learning and playing. I have several years' experience of leading a team in school and am delighted to be taking on the role of Middle School Team Leader in September. I feel privileged to work alongside so many dedicated colleagues, who strive everyday to provide the very best opportunities for our children.

As the school's Pastoral Lead and Designated Mental Health Lead, I strongly believe that all children deserve the highest quality provision and teaching to meet their needs, not just academic, but also their social, emotional and physical needs. I am responsible for monitoring and reporting on Attendance and Punctuality, helping to ensure that all pupils achieve to the best of their abilities by maximising their attendance in school. I am also the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in school and the Designated Teacher for Cared for Children.

I am a firm believer that a confident, positive and resilient mindset is one of the keys to successful, lifelong learning. I endeavour to help children believe in their own abilities and strengths, have a positive outlook and have the confidence to 'have a go' in their learning.

Year 2/3 TEACHERS

Miss Izabela Idziak - Heron

I have been working in education since 2014 and have been a member of the Shiphay team for the past four years. In 2023/24 I undertook my teacher training at Shiphay and I am now very excited and honoured to be able to continue teaching here as a fully qualified teacher.

I am passionate about creating exciting and challenging learning opportunities for my students. It is at the heart of my teaching to ensure that every student I teach receives the best possible education that is carefully planned and adapted to their individual needs. It is important to me to build positive relationships with children in my class, rooted in mutual respect. I am a strong believer in Growth Mindset and the importance of building self-confidence and resilience, where 'FAIL' is just a First Attempt In Learning. Children in my class will strive to be aspirational, independent learners and feel safe to share their ideas.

I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum, particularly Languages and Geography where children's enthusiasm shines through, as we get to travel the world without leaving our classroom! I also enjoy Art and English, where children become creative writers and poets or incredibly sophisticated artists.

Heron class will be a safe and welcoming place, where children feel valued, respected and inspired by lots of fun and challenging learning experiences. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone!

Mrs Emma Lee - Avocet

I have been teaching at Shiphay since I qualified in 2005. Over the past 21 years at our wonderful school, I've had the joy of teaching in Nursery, Reception, and Years 1 through 3. I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked across the entirety of Key Stage 1, watching the children grow and flourish. Moving into Year 3 has allowed me to see the exciting next steps in their education, and I am absolutely delighted to be working with Years 2 and 3 this year.

In my classroom, I strive to create a warm, inspiring environment where every child feels valued, motivated, and supported to reach their full potential. We love celebrating everyone's unique efforts and sharing our successes together. There is truly nothing better than witnessing those magical 'light bulb moments' when everything clicks!

I firmly believe that exploration and hands-on experiences are vital to learning, and I love seeing the children's creativity shine through. While I enjoy teaching the whole curriculum, I have a particular passion for History, English, Drama, and Maths. As a mum myself, sharing a book at the end of the day has always been a personal highlight, and I love bringing that same magic into the classroom. I feel so privileged to be working with your children, and I can't wait to meet you all soon!

Mrs Lucy Dean (nee Newell) - Skylark

In January 2021, I started my teaching career at Shiphay Learning Academy as a Year 3 class teacher and was lucky enough to teach in Year 3 for two years. After these two years, I decided to move abroad to teach in Dubai and I taught Year 5 at a British Overseas School for two years. Since living and teaching abroad, I developed a keen interest in pupil well-being and in enhancing a positive mindset for children to thrive. After leaving Dubai, I was welcomed back to Shiphay as a Year 3 class teacher alongside taking on the role of Assistant SENDCO at Roselands Primary School. During this time, I taught in a Year 1/2 class and enjoyed teaching and learning the KS1 curriculum. This KS1 experience has allowed me to see where the children have come from and I am very excited to work in Year 2/3 this year.

Inside the classroom, I enjoy working alongside the children to learn together and collaboratively create inspiring pieces of work. You will often find me singing along to a range of different songs to help the children learn everything from times tables to the names of the continents! My classroom is a safe space where children can express themselves and aspire to reach for their version of excellence. I believe in creating a stimulating, friendly and calm environment for children to learn and evolve in.

Our classroom will be an exciting and joyful place where the children will feel comfortable and proud of themselves. I cannot wait for a year filled with wonderful, positive learning experiences and getting to know all of the children's different personalities.

Year 4 Teachers

Mrs Kim Hartnell - Robin

I began my teaching career in 2014 and I thoroughly enjoy working in Key Stage Two and supporting the children both academically and developmentally. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year in Year Four and am looking forward to another year in this year group! Alongside teaching, I am our Personal Development lead at Shiphay Learning Academy and am very passionate about supporting the children's development in all aspects, as well as promoting careers and real-life opportunities for our children. During my career, I have also led Reading, Writing, PSHE, RSHE and British Values.

My areas of interest within education are pupil development, reading and writing. I am very interested in understanding the stages of development and how we can best support children socially and emotionally in all aspects of their lives. Through my interest in these areas I have become a Specialist in Personal Development and work closely alongside Public Health to promote and create the best opportunities for the children and young people in Torbay. In addition to this, I am also very passionate about Careers Education. I continue to plan and create opportunities for the children to explore and learn about a wide range of career opportunities within Torbay and further afield.

I aim to create a classroom where the children enjoy their learning experiences, build resilience in all areas of their learning and have opportunities to develop both personally and academically. I hope all children in Woodpecker enjoy their time in class, develop their understanding of the world and learn through exciting and engaging learning activities. In turn, I believe they will all be confident, independent and resilient individuals.

Mrs Alex Thomas - Kingfisher (Mon-Tue)

I started my career as a Year 4 teacher in Reading in 2015, where I was the PE Coordinator. This is an area of the curriculum that I particularly enjoy teaching, as it allows children to be active and learn creatively. In 2017, I joined Shiphay Learning Academy and have had the pleasure of teaching in Year 5, Year 3, and Year 1/Reception. In 2022, I became the Math Subject Lead. I have always had a passion for mathematics, as I love seeing children beam with pride and excitement when they discover patterns and make connections. These learning opportunities ignite children's curiosity and lead to those wonderful "eureka" moments that make learning so memorable. I strongly believe that such experiences spark a love of learning across the curriculum and help to create lifelong learners.

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family. My eldest daughter is two years old, and my youngest will be turning one very soon. We seem to spend much of our time visiting the zoo or enjoying family walks together.

I am looking forward to getting to know each child in Kingfisher Class (Monday–Tuesday) and Elm Class (Wednesdays), and discovering what makes learning exciting for them. I always strive to create a welcoming and safe environment that encourages children to share and explore their ideas. I believe it is essential that all children feel confident to have a go, take risks in their learning, and develop the skills needed to become resilient learners.

Mrs Jannice Boot - Kingfisher (Wed-Fri)

I have been a class teacher here at Shiphay since I qualified in 1990, which seems like a very long time ago! However, my love for teaching grows year on year and I really enjoy finding out about each child in my class.

In my time at Shiphay I have enjoyed teaching in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I'm really looking forward to teaching in Year 4 this year with some very familiar faces! It will be exciting to see the children at a different stage of their learning journey and to see them continue to grow and learn in Kingfisher.

I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum but especially Literacy, as I have a real love for books and stories. I am also very interested in the Natural World and take every opportunity to include my love for nature and Art into our themed work.

I like to make my classroom a welcoming and friendly place where children are encouraged to explore and investigate together within an engaging curriculum. I am passionate about providing every child with the opportunity, encouragement and support to achieve their full potential, providing the children with the skills they need to become independent, confident and aspirational learners. Outside of the classroom, I love to go on walks with my family and spend time in my garden.

Year 5 Teachers

Miss Alice Farmer - Elm (Upper School Team Leader)

In 2015, I began my teaching career at Shiphay in Year 5. After two years in Year 5, I then moved abroad to Qatar, where I was teaching the British National Curriculum to Year 2 children from all over the world. I am looking forward to moving back to Year 5, after spending the last 7 years teaching Year 6. I will use all of my knowledge of where children need to get to by the end of their Primary School journey and begin that preparation in Year 5 with an exciting and engaging curriculum. I also look forward to continuing in my roles as Assistant Headteacher, Upper School Team Lead and Art and Maths Lead.

I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum, and my subject specialism is Art and Design. I also have a passion for Mathematics, and I have been a Maths Mastery Specialist for the past 5 years, working with other schools across Devon to develop Maths Mastery in their schools.

I enjoy spending my free time dancing and going paddle boarding around the Bay, and I have also been involved in many theatre performances at the Princess Theatre. My experience as a dancer and performer has taught me the importance of working together as a team. I love bringing my skills in performing to leading Performing Arts, which gives me the opportunity to work with children from Year 3 to Year 6.

In my classroom, I value the children as creative individuals with each of them being creative in different curriculum areas. I aim to use this to bring the children together as part of a community. It is important for children to be free to explore what they are learning by asking questions, working collaboratively, having resilience, building independence and being reflective on their practice. By embedding these core values across all of their learning, I believe it will develop the children into strong individuals who are respecting citizens and who are equipped for the future.

Mrs Charlie Lawton - Chestnut (Mon-Wed)

Since qualifying as a teacher in 2015, I have been lucky enough to teach in all year groups from Reception to Year 5 and I am very much looking forward to heading back to Year 5. Teaching in different year groups has allowed me to see how the children progress and grow along their learning journey and the different connections that they make in their learning along the way. .

I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum, particularly English. I also have a keen passion and interest for Geography and Computing. I am currently the Computing subject lead and support the Online Safety Champions and Digital Leaders.

I strongly believe that an engaging curriculum should be accessible to all children in an environment that is both safe and nurturing to each child's needs. In the classroom, I aim to create a fun, friendly, welcoming environment where children feel empowered to learn and feel secure enough to make mistakes in their learning and grow from these. I like to teach in a range of ways that meet many different learning styles so each child can have equal opportunities to access the curriculum.

I am looking forward to supporting the children along their learning journey.

Mrs Katherine Luker - Chestnut (Thur-Fri)

I have been teaching at Shiphay since 1999, primarily in Upper School. My first eight years here were on a full time basis and I am now working part time, on a Thursday and Friday. I am so excited to be working in Year 5 this year. Prior to my time at Shiphay, I taught in a First and Middle school in Poole, where I was responsible for Year 5, 6 and 7 classes.

I thoroughly enjoy my time at Shiphay and relish teaching all aspects of the curriculum. My particular interest is teaching languages . For my teaching degree, I specialised in teaching French at a primary level. The enthusiasm shown by children when learning a modern foreign language is fantastic. They love learning through games and songs and are always willing to have a go. I also love being part of the Performing Arts team which gives me the opportunity to work with children from Year 3 to Year 6. It is wonderful to see them build confidence in themselves and their ideas. The cooperation, teamwork and friendships that develop over the years is fantastic to observe.

Outside of school, my family and I enjoy trips to the theatre and taking advantage of this wonderful area in which we live, with walks on Dartmoor and trips to the many beaches in the south west.

Teaching in Key Stage 2, I am a firm believer in helping children to develop their aspirational values. As they prepare to take the next step in their learning journey, having the confidence to reflect upon their work and think about what they need to do next is a great skill to acquire.

Year 6 Teachers

Miss Bryony Pruett - Oak

My teaching journey began in 2021 in Bristol, where I trained in Primary Education. My first teaching role was in Year 3 and, since then, I have spent four rewarding years teaching in Year 5. Throughout my career, I have also held the roles of Art Lead and PE Lead—two subjects I am particularly passionate about, as they support children's development both inside and outside the classroom. While I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum, art and PE will always hold a special place in my heart.

I am delighted to be starting my third year at Shiphay Learning Academy and am especially excited to be joining the Year 6 team. Having spent the last four years teaching Year 5, I am looking forward to supporting children through their final year of primary school and helping them prepare for the transition to secondary education.

I am passionate about creating engaging, creative and accessible learning opportunities that encourage every child to achieve their full potential. I also believe that children learn best when they feel safe, valued and supported, which is why I strive to build positive, nurturing relationships with every child in my class.

In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors and spending time with my dog, Poppy. I love discovering new walking routes and making the most of the beautiful local area. I also enjoy expressing my creative side through painting and baking. I firmly believe that learning never stops, and I am always looking for my next recipe to try!

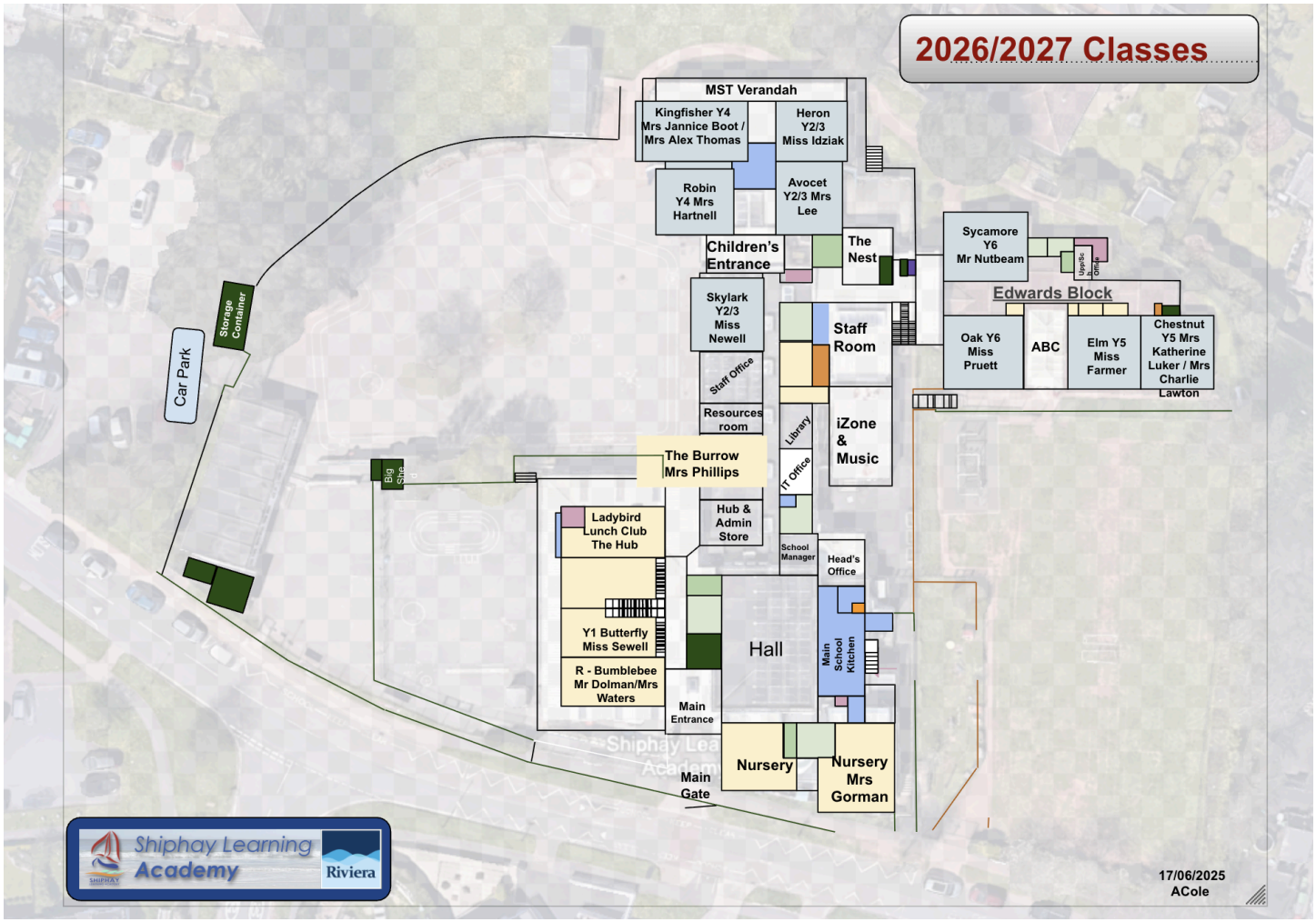
Mr Richard Nutbeam - Sycamore

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Shiphay Learning Academy and am excited to continue my journey with Year 6 next year. Teaching has always been a vocation driven by my passion for learning, the outdoors, and exploring the world around us. My decision to become a teacher was inspired by experiences in outdoor classrooms in Kenya, where I saw first-hand the power of engaging, hands-on learning. I have now been teaching for over 19 years.

Throughout my career, I have held a variety of leadership roles within schools. However, a few years ago, I made the decision to return to the classroom full-time, and I have loved being able to work directly with children every day. As a teacher, I strive to create a vibrant and inclusive learning environment where every child can thrive. I believe in recognising and nurturing a wide range of strengths and talents, helping children to develop both academically and personally. Strong relationships are at the heart of successful learning, and I work hard to ensure that children feel safe, valued, and confident in taking risks with their learning. I encourage children to see mistakes as an important and positive part of the learning process.

Science is my favourite subject and an area in which I have specialised. I love the curiosity and excitement it inspires, and I believe it offers wonderful opportunities to bring learning to life through investigation, discovery, and real-world experiences.

I began my teaching career in Birmingham before moving to Devon eight years ago. Since then, I have embraced everything the area has to offer, particularly the opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with my wife and our three sons: Arthur (7), Alfred (5), and William (3).

I am very much looking forward to meeting my new Year 6 class and supporting them through the final stage of their primary school journey at Shiphay Learning Academy. Together, we will work hard, embrace new challenges, and make the most of a memorable and successful year.

2026/2027 Classes