

Dear Pre-K 4 families,

I wanted to take a moment to share an important update with you. As many of you know, our family is expecting a new baby, and while we are so excited for this next chapter, I also know that my upcoming absence may bring some questions for both you and your children.

At this time, **my maternity leave is scheduled to begin on October 19th and I plan to return to the classroom on January 4th**. This will include approximately 7 weeks of leave, with the remainder of the time falling during our school's holiday break.
I do want to reiterate that October 19th is my anticipated start date, but babies have a way of making their own schedules! If my little one decides to arrive earlier than expected, my leave may begin sooner. I will keep the school and families informed as much as possible should there be any changes to the timeline.

While I am away, AvaBeth Owen will be serving as your child's substitute teacher. I am especially thankful that she will be the one caring for our class during this time. AvaBeth is a familiar and trusted face within our school community and has been widely involved with our class throughout the year. She knows our classroom, our routines, our expectations, and — most importantly — our students!
AvaBeth also has previous experience working in PK classrooms before this school year, so she understands the unique needs, personalities, routines, and learning styles of our little ones. She is familiar with my teaching methods and the way our classroom operates, which will help provide consistency and comfort for the children while I am away.

One of my biggest priorities as I prepare for maternity leave is making sure that our classroom continues to feel like the same safe, loving, and joyful place that your children know. I will be working closely with AvaBeth beforehand to make sure she is prepared and has everything she needs to make the transition as smooth as possible.

I know how much trust you place in me each day when you send your children through our classroom doors, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. Although I will certainly miss our PK4 friends tremendously, it brings me peace knowing they will be loved, cared for, and taught by someone who already knows them so well.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding, and prayers as our family prepares to welcome this precious little blessing. I am so grateful for the opportunity to spend these first weeks with my baby, and I am equally grateful to know that our PK4 family will be in such wonderful hands while I am away.

Please know that I am still fully committed to making this a wonderful school year for your children, and there is so much learning, growing, playing, praying, and fun ahead of us before my leave begins! Thank you for allowing me the privilege of teaching and loving your children. They have already made this year so special, and I look forward to making many more precious memories with them before I temporarily step away.

With love,
Mrs. Cobb