



4 July 2017

Dear Parent or Carer

I can hardly believe another academic year is fast drawing to a close. This has been a special year for the school with our 200th anniversary which will continue next term. This fortnight has been very busy with our annual Sports Day, a very successful school fayre, our Year 6 children spending at least one day in their new secondary schools; a new Reception Parents welcome meeting and each year group has moved up a year for the morning, meeting their new teachers and all working in the classrooms they will occupy next year.

As well as changes for the children, the school is also getting ready for some staff changes. We will be saying goodbye to the following teachers:-

Miss Taylor is embarking on an exciting adventure to teach in Kenya.

Miss Tyler is also taking on a new exciting challenge teaching abroad in Dubai.

Mrs Apps is leaving to take up a leadership role in another local Church of England school.

Mr Trick will be leaving but will still be undertaking staff cover from time to time to cover training.

All these staff will be sadly missed but we look forward to hearing about their successes in the new term. I am sure you will join us in sending them all the very best wishes for the future.

Although it is always sad to say goodbye to staff, it means we will be welcoming new people to our team. We have already welcomed Miss Jessica Richardson to our Early Years team. Miss Georgina Pooley has also joined us in Year 1. We are still recruiting for one vacancy in Year 3 and hope to be able to update you about that in the near future. We are delighted with these appointments and all our new teachers bring new skills and experience to the school family. Please look at the attached document for specific details on the new class and teacher structure for September 2017.

This year classes in the school have been mixed in line with the procedures we outlined in the year book. Class changes have been made after much consultation with the teachers and Senior Leadership Team. We consider a range of factors to get a balanced class. This includes ensuring a balanced ability range, taking account of the individual needs and personalities, friendship groups and the overall dynamics. Whilst I recognise that any change is unsettling, please be assured that the children receive support to settle into their new class, whether mixed or not. We really appreciate your support in speaking positively to your child about the changes and helping to reassure them that moving class or changes to classes are a good way to make new friends and support their learning and please understand that class changes are not an aspect of provision that parents and carers are asked to influence.

Reception have always been mixed at the end of their first year in school and this year is no exception. This will always be the case because the school needs to assess the abilities, personalities and dynamics as the children settle into their school life and then create balanced classes for their Infant years.

Year 1 will not be mixed this year. In future years we would not expect to mix Year 1.



Year 2 will be mixed this year ready for the new challenges of the Junior curriculum and this will happen in future years.

Year 3 will not be mixed this year. In future years we would not expect to mix Year 3.

Year 4 will be mixed this year as the two classes need rebalancing ready for the demands of Year 5 and 6.

Year 5 is not being mixed. There are no plans to mix this year group in future years as the arrangements in Year 6 are vastly different to other parts of the school. The children will be working in smaller groups for many lessons across the two classes.

Each year group and class is different and the dynamic can change over time, sometimes mixing the classes may occur out of the normal pattern in order to cater for specific needs or circumstances that arise.

I realise that a number of parents may still be concerned that some year groups have been mixed. But it is important to understand that these decisions are considered, and have included asking the children for their friendship groups to ensure they have at least one friend in their new class. It is part of the school's responsibility to place children in their classes to ensure each child has the maximum opportunity to learn. Both classes in each year group will meet regularly as a year and children meet up at playtime and lunchtime every day. Any initial anxiety will quickly disappear as the new year gets underway.

As our busy term continues, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at all the events that will occur before the summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Dyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'C' and a clear 'Dyer'.

Mrs C Dyer
Headteacher
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