



Ashford Church of England Primary School

6 July 2016

Dear Parents

I can hardly believe another academic year is fast drawing to a close. This week has seen our annual Sports Day, Year 6 children spending at least one day in their new secondary schools; our 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. Mr Ben Astill is leaving to take up new leadership responsibilities in another Surrey Church of England School. He will be sadly missed and we wish him every success in his future role. Miss Laura Werner-Brown is leaving to take on new exciting challenges teaching abroad in Dubai. We all wish her every success and happiness in her new role. Miss Marana Biddle is leaving to take up a new leadership role in another Church of England school. She will be sadly missed and we wish her every success in her new role. We look forward to hearing of their success in the new term. Mrs Jessica Moreland is enjoying her new role as a mother and will be taking a break from teaching. We wish her and baby Thomas all the best for the future.

Although it is always sad to say goodbye to staff, it means we will be welcoming new staff to our team. We have already welcomed Miss Connie Capel to lead our Early Years team and she will teach in Reception alongside Mrs Lesley Bailey who some of you may know as a parent and Governor of the school but is now changing role and joining us as a teacher. Mr Shaun Newport is a newly qualified teacher and will be joining us in Year 3. Mrs Denise Chessum joins us to teach in Year 4 alongside Mrs Megan Edwards and lastly, Mrs Amanda Apps who has been working in Richmond Local Authority is joining us to teach in Year 1. Miss Lauren Lonergan returns as Mrs Morgan to Year 5 and Miss Stephanie Tyler who took over from her remains with us in Year 4. 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 2016.

This year classes in the school have been mixed in line with the procedures we outlined last year. Class changes have been made after much consultation with the teachers and Senior Leadership Team.

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.



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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 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. I would ask parents to support me in this process to help make it as smooth a transition for their children as possible and understand that this is not an aspect of provision that parents and carers are asked to influence.

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 "E. Dyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Mrs C Dyer
Headteacher
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CLASSES 2016 - 2017

Reception	Koalas Kangaroos Koalas/Kangaroos	– Miss Connie Capel – Mrs Lesley Bailey – Mrs Avril Forster
Year 1	Tigers Pandas	– Mrs Amanda Apps – Miss Emma Curl
Year 2	Giraffes Zebras	– Miss Anna Taylor – Miss Emily Hams
Year 3	Meerkats Lemurs	– Mr Sean Newport – Miss Paula Tasker
Year 4	Elephants Rhinos	– Miss Stephanie Tyler – Mrs Denise Chessum (Mon-Wed) – Mrs Megan Edwards (Wed-Fri)
Year 5	Buffaloes Llamas Buffaloes/Llamas	– Mrs Lauren Morgan (Nee Lonergan) – Miss Louise Synnott – Mr Richard Austin
Year 6	Leopards Panthers Leopards/Panthers	– Mr James Dodman – Miss Charlotte Mortimore – Miss Hannah Beacham
PPA (class cover)		– Mrs Sue Seymour (Tigers-Thurs) – Mrs Avril Forster – Mrs Wendy Street – Mrs Trilby Lacey (Meerkats – Mon) – Mr Simon Trick
PPA and French		– Mrs Charlotte Tomson