



**Respect – Responsibility - Resilience – Kindness – Teamwork**

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**Head teacher: Mr Tim Phillips**

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to parents of children in years 1 and 2 because I want to let you know about some changes which will be happening after Christmas.

As you know, the pandemic has affected schools significantly this year. The lost learning which children experienced was dramatic and the effects of school closure continue to be felt. As you will be aware, there is a national picture of children with significant gaps in their learning. One thing we have found is that with younger children the gap in lost learning tends to be greater. As a result, the gap between our current year 1 and year 2 children is wider than in other year groups.

After January, we will re-structure the key stage 1 classes. As you know, they are currently 'mixed-age'. When we return after Christmas classes 1/2S and 1/2CF will be re-structured so that Miss Sykes will teach a straight year 2 class (called 2S), and Mrs Chaplin and Miss Fallon will teach a straight year 1 class (called 1CF). This will allow them to focus learning more tightly at the level of ability and development each age-range requires. Class 1/2B will remain unchanged. One reason for this is that if we restructured all 3 classes, it would result in us having to separate friendship groups of children who have been with each other since Reception. We wanted our mixed-age class being taught by our Key Stage 1 Leader, Mrs Borwell. In addition, the gap in ability appears to be less pronounced in 1/2B than in the other 2 classes – something which frequently happens in schools. The year 2 children from Miss Fallon's and Miss Chaplin's class will be taught by Miss Sykes in her class (with her existing year 2 children) and the years 1 children from both classes will be taught by Mrs Chaplin and Miss Fallon.

It is clearly the case that children have already been through a lot this year. We fully recognise that making a change such as this part-way through a school year is unusual – and something we would not consider in 'normal times'. However, we don't feel it would be right to wait 9 months until September to do something about the evident gap in learning which exists. I understand some of you may feel unsettled by this, but I am sure you would agree that addressing this now is the right thing to do. By maintaining friendship groups and providing targeted teaching, we feel this is the best thing for the children.

As ever, if you have specific concerns relating to this decision, please get in touch either with your child's Teacher or me directly. We have not told the children yet, but intend to tomorrow. Or you may choose to tell them yourself. Clearly, we need to make sure this change goes as smoothly as possible and Mrs Rutherford and I will be ensuring this happens.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Phillips, Headteacher

