



June 2018

Believing and Achieving Together

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you to parents who have discussed and asked questions about our school organisation for next year. Demand for places at Seaton Delaval First School has always exceeded our pupil admission number of 30 and this is why the intake number was increased to 45 [one and a half classes per year group]. This decision was also taken to ease parents concern that they might not be allocated a place in Reception. We realise and understand that mixed age classes are not anyone's preferred option but legally we must have 1 teacher to 30 pupils aged between 4 and 7 years old or lower in Nursery [1 qualified adult to 13 pupils]. Class organisation for our school will be as follows:

- Nursery [morning] and Reception pupils then Nursery afternoon with Reception pupils [13 Nursery pupils and 17 Reception pupils]
- Reception and Year 1 [29 pupils]
- Year 1 [28 pupils]
- Year 2 [30 pupils]
- Year 2 and Year 3 [27 pupils]
- Year 3 [30 pupils]
- Year 4 [28 pupils]

All classes will have a Learning Support Assistant in most morning lessons to support all pupils in raising personal standards in English and Mathematics. Nursery and Reception classes will have full time Learning Support Assistants all day every day. The best way to place pupils in a mixed age class is to discuss with teachers, and all staff, the current whole stage of each individual child including self-confidence, managing feelings, making relationships, personal development, etc. We use this information to continue to provide exceptional provision for all our pupils and further tailor our curriculum. We have successfully taught mixed age classes now for many years and have worked hard to adapt, while personalising the curriculum, to even better fit the needs and interests of all our learners. Pupils enjoy a two year topic cycle for their afternoon lessons and carefully planned English and Mathematics lessons in the morning. All our pupils have challenging, realistic personal targets for reading, writing and Mathematics successfully supporting all pupils in reaching their true potential. Teachers constantly assess, track and plan interventions for all pupils with half termly assessment update weeks. All staff share high expectations for all pupils, working tirelessly to ensure all pupils make outstanding progress. As always, each child is considered as an individual and we will continue to meet the needs of all pupils supporting and challenging them in all areas of the curriculum and personal development. Seaton Delaval First School prides itself on an 'open door' approach encouraging parents to discuss concerns, with class teachers initially or the Headteacher without an appointment, and that every child in our school is **happy, safe and learning.**

Kind regards,

Margaret Richards (Chair of Governors)