

Bottisham Community Primary School



Headteacher: Rachael Johnston

Monday 21st May 2018

Dear Parents,

We are currently in the process of organising classes for September. For your information, the class structure for the next academic year will be as follows:

Class	Year Group	Teacher/s
Acorns	Nursery	Mrs Claydon & Mrs Hall
Oak	YR	Mrs Morrison & Mrs Misik
Ash	YR/1	Mrs Swift
Beech	Y1/2	Mrs Childs
Pine	Y2	Miss Grange
Cedar	Y3/4	Miss Cridland
Birch	Y3/4	Mrs McGrath
Elm	Y3/4	Mrs Ociepko & Mrs Walker
Sycamore	Y5	Mr Legge
Willow	Y5	Mrs McMahon
Maple	Y6	Mrs Palmer & Mrs Heijne

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hall and Miss Grange as new appointments to our staff team. We are also pleased to be welcoming Mrs Heijne back from her maternity leave.

As you will see, there are some changes this year to the class organisation across the school. This is to accommodate the fact that some year groups are much larger or smaller than others and that overall, the school is growing in size. The Government funds schools according to pupil numbers which in turn, dictates the number of classes that we are able to provide. We are also restricted to 30 children per class in the infant classes. The class organisation that we have for the next academic year has been agreed by the Governing body to be the best option, not only for the children but also the financial viability of the school.

As you will be aware, we have run mixed-aged classes for many years. This has worked very successfully and none of our data or national data has suggested there is a negative impact due to mixed age teaching. **All the classes, including the straight year groups, will be entirely mixed ability and children will be allocated to classes based on social groups rather than academic attainment or age.** All classes have a large range of abilities which teachers are used to differentiating for and ensure that each child has the correct level of work irrespective of their age. We teach children at their level, not an age related level.

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Class teachers spend a great deal of time organising the children into classes and we are very keen that we make sure that they are happy and secure as they move forward into their new academic year. Class teachers will consider children's friendship groups and which children we know they work well alongside when deciding where to allocate them.

Your input as parents has always been a very important part of this process and we value your involvement. If you feel that there is any important information that it would be helpful for your child's class teacher to know when allocating classes for next year, there is a slip below which you can complete and return to them by **Friday 8th June**. This is optional and your child's teacher will be happy to allocate your child to their new class if you choose not to return it.

Feedback to class teachers should be about any particular friendships or relationship issues that you feel that they need to be aware of when planning classes. As I am sure you will appreciate, planning classes is a complex process and it is not always possible to accommodate everyone's preferences. **Therefore, please note that requests for a particular class or teacher will not be able to be accommodated and so we ask that you refrain from including this on your form.**

Once the class lists have been published, we will not be making any changes to them which is why it is very important for you to have shared your comments before the 8th June deadline.

Information about your child's class will be included in the annual report which will be given out on Tuesday 19th June. The children from Reception through to Year 5 will be given two opportunities to meet their new class teacher, once during the afternoon of 19th June and then again including the children from Nursery during the class swap on the afternoon of Monday 3rd July.

We will be holding transition meetings for each year group throughout the remainder of the term which will be an opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher as well as on the Open Evening on 28th June.

Thank for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael Johnston
Headteacher

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Childs Name:

If you feel that there is important information about **friendships or social issues** that would be helpful for your child's class teacher to know when allocating classes please record below.

Please return by Friday 8th June 2018

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