

Bottisham Community Primary School



Interim Head: Lisa Perry
Deputy Heads: Christine Sheppard and Debbie Heijne

Thursday 16th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

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 Heijne & *****
Pine	Y1/2	Mrs Spurr
Cedar	Y3/4	Mr Legge
Birch	Y3/4	Mrs Childs
Elm	Y3/4	Mrs Ociepko & Mrs Walker
Sycamore	Y5/6	Mrs McGrath
Willow	Y5/6	Mrs McMahan & Mrs Rayment
Maple	Y5/6	Mrs Palmer

As Miss Cridland has decided to move on to new challenges and opportunities, we will be welcoming a new member of staff to our team who will be working alongside Mrs Heijne in Y1/2. We will be very sad to see Miss Cridland go but we wish her well on the next stage of her professional journey.

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 a class for next year, there is a slip below which you can complete and return to them by **Thursday 23rd May**. 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 **23rd May** deadline.

Information about your child's class will be included in the annual report which will be given out on Wednesday 3rd July. The children from Reception through to Year 5 will be given two opportunities to meet their new class teacher, once during the afternoon of 3rd July and then again including the children from Nursery during the class swap on the afternoon of Tuesday 9th 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 Thursday 4th July.

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

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Perry
Interim Head

Child's Name:

Current Class:

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 them below.

Please return by Thursday 23rd May 2019

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