

Good Morning everyone

I hope this beautiful sunny day finds you all well and happy.

I wanted to share with you our plan for September classes - normally by now the children would be doing what we call our 'bump up' days where they go and visit their new teacher. It's a bit more complicated this year! But I thought the first thing I could do would be to let you know which class your child will be in. We are planning some transition activities for them - for example a social story, reading stories on Seesaw or Tapestry and hopefully their new teacher will be able to visit them - at a distance!

Some of you have children starting in year R and you will be finding out soon which class your child will be in:

- Caterpillars: Mrs Halbauer and Mrs Philipson will be job sharing half a week each - two for the price of one! Mrs Campbell-Smith will be TA.
- Ladybirds: Mrs Sanger will be full time along with Ms Brant as TA.

Our current year R children will be remaining in the same classes when they move to Year 1. The Ladybirds are going to become Hedgehogs and the Caterpillars will be Squirrels:

- Squirrels: Miss Walters with Mrs Ives and Mrs Jackson sharing the role of TA
- Hedgehogs: Mrs Douglass with Mrs Wilkins as TA

Mrs Syms will continue in her role of Deputy Headteacher and Senco three days a week.

We have taken the decision to mix our current year 1 class, as we usually do at the end of year 1, which means they can move to the Junior School without being mixed. It's a good life skill for children to have to learn to get along with a new group of friends and we think very carefully about how we mix the classes to ensure that some friends are able to stay together. We are also aware of which children learn well together and have taken this into consideration too. Because we are mixing them, and in the current climate, we have decided to send Mrs Mavin and Mrs Truslove up to year 2 with them so that they have familiar faces to support them:

- Owls: Mrs Barty and Mrs Truslove
- Badgers: Mrs Mavin and Mrs Stevinson

You will receive an email shortly letting you know which class your child will be in. We are happy for you to share this information with your child. If you have worries or anxieties yourselves about the changes ahead please try not to pass these on to your child. We have been so impressed with the way the children have coped in the current situation and I am sure they will take this next stage of their education in their stride. Remember, we are here to listen and to hold your hand but we also have a duty of care to encourage our children to be resilient and manage changes in their lives.

You will have noticed that Mrs Plumridge's name does not appear on the class lists. After over twenty years at our school she has made the decision to finally retire! She will be greatly missed and we wondered if any past students or parents would like to send in messages or cards to pass on to her. She doesn't like a fuss but we all feel she will leave a very great hole in our school - we will miss our links with the Emerald Isle!

With love from Jacky