

## St Mary's CE Primary School

Lodge Hill Road, Selly Oak,  
Birmingham, B29 6NU

Tel: 0121 675 1729 Web: [www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk](http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk)

Email: [enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr S Smith



21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents,

### **Teaching arrangements for current Year 2 pupils from September 2018**

Our current Year 2 pupils are coming to the end of their time in Key Stage 1 and will shortly be making the move into Key Stage 2. When the children started school in September 2015, the class groups were determined by assessment information obtained from pre-school settings and the different characteristics of pupils such as gender, language and specific needs so we were able to have two well-balanced mixed ability classes.

We aim to maintain this balance throughout the school so we can address the needs of each child as effectively as possible. This is critical as they meet a very different and more demanding curriculum from Year 3 onwards. Therefore, we have taken the decision to reorganise the classes from this September. There are many reasons and advantages to doing this:

-The number of pupils leaving and joining the year group since September 2015 has meant that they are not as balanced as they once were. This change will enable us to address the issue at a transitional point in their journey through school and means that both classes will once again have a good balance in terms of ability and characteristics.

-We will provide additional teaching assistant support for the classes next year but increased budgetary pressures (as explained in the letter you received last week) mean that we cannot maintain the current level of one assistant per class. From September, we will only be able to allocate one assistant to the year group as a whole. This means that our support has to be targeted very precisely and reorganising provides the best chance of us achieving that while maintaining two mixed-ability classes.

-Information from pre-school settings can be variable in quality. We have developed a very clear understanding of each child's development, both academically and socially, over the past three years and this information has helped us to decide upon the composition of the two new classes. This will allow us to start accelerating the progress of all pupils immediately upon their return in September.

We reorganised the current Year 3 classes for similar reasons last year and have tracked the progress of these children closely to ascertain the impact. The results have been very positive with rates of progress of all ability groups being in excess of those normally expected in Year 3. The children have also been able to tackle the new and different challenges that have awaited them successfully. A further advantage is that the children have had the chance to develop new friendships, as well as maintain those they have developed in the early part of their time in school.

To best support this reorganisation, class teachers have worked with the children to gather some information from them. Through circle time activities, they have asked them: *'Which friends from Hedgehogs and/or Foxes do you work best with?'* This has helped us to create the new classes, taking into account both academic and pastoral perspectives.

We will let the children know about these changes tomorrow (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June) and will inform you of the class that your child will be in next week, the name of their teacher and provide a class list so you know which children will be sharing this new class with your child. The children will then be given a number of opportunities to work in their new class groups between now and the end of term so they can start building friendships and get used to working together in advance of September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith  
Headteacher