



Stamford Green Primary School



13 June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Current Y1 - Classes for the next academic year

As you may remember, when your child joined YR, it was mentioned in the welcome meeting documentation, that we will be mixing the children in each class twice during their seven years with us. The reason for doing this is because when the children are put into classes for YR we do not know each little person; all we have is information on paper and we use this to try and get a mix of gender and ages in each class. However, after two years at school we now know all the personalities and talents in every child in Y1 and for educational reasons, the children in all the Y1 classes will benefit from being mixed into four new classes for the start of Y2.

Many schools in the local area mix classes regularly, some even do it every year. This is due to the educational benefits that come from mixing, as teams are re-balanced, alongside children learning the skills of working with different people. Additionally, thinking ahead to secondary school, children are in different groups for every lesson so a gentle introduction to this is beneficial.

Mrs Williams, our Y1 Leader, the other teachers and myself are the only staff involved in this process and I have asked the teachers to think about each and every child in their class in terms of who they will work well with, friendships, whether there are any individual considerations, such as medical needs, social needs, learning needs that must be considered etc. We think about the class (bearing in mind all the elements above) and make a decision on which class we feel the child will do 'academically and socially' best in. Both classes will have a wide range of pupil ability, a balance of gender and other specific needs. We also ask parents to mention anything they want us to take account of (please see the last paragraph). From all of this information we draw up draft class lists and look, re-look and look again at our decisions, it takes the staff hours as careful consideration is required.

On Monday 9.7.18 your child will come out of school with a slip of paper with their new class details; this will not include the details of other children in the class to prevent a breach of personal data in line with the Data Protection Act and our Safeguarding Policy. The children will spend Tuesday 10.7.18 with their new teacher and class mates so will know who is in their Y2 class and this day will give them reassurance during this period of change.

For your information the children currently in Y1 will be mixed again at the end of Y3 ready for the start of Y4 and this depends on the educational reasons as the children grow and develop. We will keep you informed but Y3 is still a long way away! In the meantime the class teachers will talk to the children this week about next year.

If you feel anxious about any issues in relation to classes next year, then please email Mrs Williams williamse@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk by Wednesday 20.6.18 to let us know your concerns. Specific classes or teachers will not be taken into account, nor can parents try to specify who else should or shouldn't be in their child's class but we will consider any exceptional circumstances that may have a bearing on a child's academic progress. We will listen and act accordingly if we see an educational reason for your viewpoint.

Once classes have been finalised and shared with children and parents, further changes will not be considered so please highlight any considerations you would like us to take into account now.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Druce
Headteacher