

29th November 2021

Dear Year 1 and 2 Families,

Changes to Year 1 and 2 Classes – from January 2022

I am writing to share a few important updates with you regarding Year 1 and 2 and how the school will be changing as a result.

Firstly, we are very sad to share that both Mrs. Moore and Miss Dalley, our Year 1 teachers, are leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs. Moore has taught at the school for over 20 years and has taught many of the children currently in the school and for many years before that and Miss Dalley has been with the school for six years. Both teachers will be very much missed by the staff and children, and I can imagine among our parent community also.

Considering this news, I have been recruiting to fill their positions for January 2022. It is a challenging time to recruit in the middle of the year, yet we have been lucky to recruit Miss Miller to our staff team and she will be starting with us in Key Stage 1 from January.

Further successful recruitment has continued to be a challenge and the quality of the candidates has not been up to the standard that I would be happy to put in front of your children. Therefore I have made a decision to change the structure of Years 1 and 2 to draw on the remaining high quality staff that are familiar to the children, to lead the classes in Key Stage 1. This will look like 3 mixed Year 1/2 classes instead of the current 4 separate classes. I have taken a lot in to consideration to make this decision, namely the quality of the adults we have already in the team, the data analysis from the school closures for both years 1 and 2. This change will further enable the Year 1/2 team to support and target to close the gaps

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that all children were affected by when they could not access high quality education on site, but also continue to provide the stability a mid-year change presents.

This change will take place formally from when the children return in January 2022. We have planned transitions in the next few weeks for all Year 1 and 2 children to spend time in their new classes, with their new teachers and with their fellow classmates.

To celebrate the Year 1/2 relaunch, we have chosen 3 new class names;

- Citrine
- Amber
- Jasper

The previous class names will no longer be used from January 2022.

The teaching team in Year 1/2 will be;

Mrs D'Arcy – Key Stage 1 Lead

Mrs Jennings/Mrs Monk (Class share)

Miss Miller

Mrs Lee

I understand this is not an ideal time of year to make changes. The staff have been working together to consider class groupings and have been working together to plan the curriculum. We aim to inform the children shortly about this change and their new classes and will keep you informed about this.

We would like to invite you in to see your children's learning in their new class on Friday 14th January 2022. You will be able to join us between 9.00-9.30am OR 2.30-3.00pm in class on that date. We will need you to book for this and will be in touch again in the New Year. This may be subject to change if further COVID restrictions are imposed.

Always assuring you of our best intentions.

Best Wishes

Natasha Outhwaite

Headteacher