



Friday, 05 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Upper Key Stage Two 2019

As we begin to make preparations for the new academic year we are looking closely at cohorts of children and deciding on the best way for them to transition to their new classes. We have found it necessary to operate three mixed Year 5/6 classes across Upper Key Stage 2 next year.

Our rationale behind the mixing of classes is:

- To promote a greater sense of community and responsibility across upper key stage two
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition.

Classes will be mixed to ensure a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender
- Range of educational, social, emotional and personal needs, including special educational needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships

The process of mixing classes is detailed and thorough:

- Class teachers and teaching assistants observe the children at work and at play
- Children are given opportunities to name peers they would like to be in a class with
- Class teachers meet to ensure that a good balance of educational, social and personal needs, gender, maturity and friendships are represented in each class
- Senior leaders meet with class teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
- New classes are shared with children and parents on transition day in July.

Parents & carers often worry about friendships the most:

- When the classes are mixed, will my child be with their best friend?
- Will they get on with everyone in their class?
- What about that child they had a falling out with previously?

Try to remember that, when we are young, friendships often change frequently and your child may be 'best friends' with someone one week and move on to someone else the next! The most solid friendships will stand up even if your child doesn't see the person every day. Please take the time to reinforce these messages at home and reassure your child about the change. If they think you are OK, they will be OK too!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for helping and supporting the children's transition by promoting class mixing as a positive experience, thereby ensuring a happy and smooth transition for all.

Please email any questions you have to admin@longmeadow.herts.sch.uk ready for the 'New to Upper Key Stage Two' meeting on Tuesday 9th July.

The Longmeadow Team