

3 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you today to explain our plans to support your child through their transition from their current class to their next one. As I am sure you can understand, this process will have to look very different this year.

As always, I will try and explain this as best I can, but as I am sure you will appreciate, each activity will look different depending on the year group your child is currently in.

### New Classes

Once again, we will have 2 classes per year group next year, but there will be some slight staffing changes that I need to make you aware of.

Firstly, I am sorry to say that Miss Haigh will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Miss Haigh has secured a new teaching post in her home county of Yorkshire. She has been a real asset to Lantern Lane and we are all sorry to see her go, but we wish her all the very best for the future.

Secondly, both Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hancock will not have a class next year, but don't worry, both will still be in school, but will be focusing more on their management responsibilities.

As a result of the above, I am pleased to inform you that we will be welcoming two new teachers to Lantern Lane in September, Miss Mistry and Miss Perry.

We have taken the decision this year to keep the children together in their current class groups as we feel this will alleviate many anxieties for the children around friendship groups. Usually children are able to meet their new class and teacher for a morning before the end of term, but this will not be possible this year. In addition, keeping classes together will make the hand-over of information from one teacher to the next much easier, so we can be sure it is done as thoroughly as in the past.

Please see the table below, which shows which teacher your child's class is going to next year.

Current class teacher	Next Class teacher
F2-Miss Brumpton	Y1-Miss Bowe/Mrs Prowse
F2-Mrs Jones/Mrs Beharral	Y1-Mrs Thornhill
Y1-Mrs Thornhill	Y2-Mrs Drakes
Y1-Miss Bowe/Mrs Prowse	Y2-Miss Waggett
Y2-Mrs Drakes	Y3-Miss Mistry
Y2-Miss Waggett	Y3-Mr Rowan
Y3-Mrs Halliwell/Mrs Thompson	Y4- Miss Roberts
Y3-Miss Haigh	Y4- Miss Perry
Y4-Mr Rowan	Y5- Mrs Halliwell/Mrs Ness
Y4-Miss Roberts	Y5- Mr Thomas
Y5-Miss Harbey	Y6-Mr Smith
Y5-Mr Thomas	Y6-Miss Harbey
<p>The following teachers will be supporting classes and providing cover next year</p> <p>Mrs Genders Mrs Johnson Mrs Boast Mrs McLeman</p>	

## **Meet the Teacher (children)**

All teachers in school have been busy producing videos to introduce themselves to their new classes. These will be available on our school website week beginning July 6<sup>th</sup> (F1 to F2 is already available on there). We would ask that you watch these with your child, more than once if you can cope with it, as it will help the children to familiarise themselves with their new classrooms and the staff who will be working with them. From next week, these videos can be found under the children's tab and are named 'Welcome Videos'.

Those children currently in F2 and Y1 will meet their new teachers on a regular basis in school. Staff are planning regular drop-ins to meet their new classes over the next three weeks.

During the week beginning July 13<sup>th</sup>, some year groups will be holding Meet the Teacher events for children. This will be for children who will be in Y2 upwards next year. These events have been timetabled carefully in order to ensure that we do not have children and parents crossing over. All events will be held outside on the grassed area at the back of main school and we would ask that you bring your child at the allocated time to the back gate where a staff member will be there to greet you. If it is raining, then please come through the front gate and go straight to the hall - a text will be sent on the day if we have to use the hall.

We have deliberately kept each of these events to 30 minutes so that children do not need to use the toilets, therefore encroaching on the spaces used by the bubbles in school. Please ensure your child goes to the toilet before they leave home.

Please note, if you or your child has any of the recognised symptoms of Covid-19, we have to insist that you do not attend in the interests of everyone's safety.

## **Meet The Teacher (parents)**

Following your child's Meet the Teacher event, each teacher will then hold a meeting for parents and carers. In these meetings, transition booklets will be issued in order to provide all the information you need for your child's next class. Again, to avoid congestion in and around school, we would ask that you return to school at the allocated time through the back gate and it is imperative that only one adult per child attends this event. This meeting will again be held outside on the grassed area.

If your child is in Y1 or Y2 (next year) then your Meet the Teacher events will be slightly different to the above, as yours will be held virtually. This is because the majority of staff involved in these meetings are currently teaching in bubbles and we cannot, for the protection of the children that we do have in school, release them from their bubbles to start mixing with lots of other people. A separate letter explaining the arrangements for these virtual meetings will be sent home shortly with a detailed transition booklet, providing you with lots of information about your child's next year group.

If you cannot attend any of the above, then the transition documents will be sent out electronically to you at a later date.

## **Goodbye to this year...**

Obviously, before your child moves onto their next classes, we also want to give them the chance to say goodbye to their current teacher.

We have tried our best to maintain contact with all of the children throughout the closure and this will, of course, continue to the end of term for those children who are currently not in school. I think the addition of the class Zoom meetings has just cheered us all up, as there is nothing better (other than them being in school obviously) than seeing lots of happy, smiley children - I stand by what I have said, you are all doing a great job with them under very difficult circumstances!

So with the end of term approaching, for those children in Y2 to Y5 currently, we have planned in some opportunities for the children to come into school to have a little goodbye 'party' with their teachers. These will take place in the last week of term (Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>) and will again, weather permitting, be on the grass at the back of school. Please encourage your child to attend this, as I think it is important that they each have closure to this academic year.

Children who are currently in school will have their goodbye 'parties' on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July. These will be held outside and we will 'double bubble at a social distance' on this occasion so that teachers can see their whole classes together again for one last time. Year 6 will have their goodbye event on the field at ELA (more information to follow to Y6 shortly)

I have attached a timetable of dates and times for all of the above to try and make all this information a little clearer (nothing beats a good timetable). Please find your child's current class and then follow the colour-coded line across as that will tell you all you need to know.

As I am sure you will appreciate, a lot of time has gone into planning all of the above in order to try and make the best of a very bad situation. However, in these unprecedented times as with any plans, they will only be successful if we are able to stay safe by following the rules that, sadly, we have currently had to put in place. Therefore, I just want to remind everyone of the following rules that we must adhere to when attending school:

- Whenever possible, a 2m distance should be maintained from staff, other parents and children;
- If you come into school at any time with children, please remind children to social distance;
- Arrive and leave promptly at the allocated times to avoid congestion;
- Prior to leaving home, please ensure that your children have washed their hands.

Maintaining these rules is incredibly important over the next few weeks as we have a staff member, Miss Roberts, returning to school who has been shielding for the last few months. Miss Roberts wants to come in and meet her new class and say goodbye to her current one, but I would ask that we are all mindful of her current circumstances.

I know that there is a lot of information in this letter, but hopefully it reassures you all, that we are still trying to provide all of the children with the best end of year transition that we possibly can.

In addition to transition, I am sure that many of you are concerned about arrangements for September. You may be aware that guidance was published yesterday. We are currently using this to complete our plans for September and we will be back in touch with further details shortly.

Sorry this letter has been so lengthy!

Best wishes,

Jane Butler  
Headteacher