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Monday 27th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of the summer term and are making plans for the next school year. I am now able to confirm our class structure and staffing arrangements for September 2022.

Robins – Year R and Year 1

Class Teacher: Mrs Bolton

LSAs: Mrs Frost all day Monday – Wednesday, Thursday morning. Mrs Waddon Thursday afternoon and all day Friday

Kingfishers – Year 1 and Year 2

Class Teacher: Miss Costar

LSA: Mrs Knight Monday-Friday mornings

Owls – Year 3 and 4

Class Teacher: Miss Evie Saupe (pronounced "Say-pea")

LSA: Mrs Dibb Monday – Friday mornings

Ospreys – Year 5 and 6

Class Teacher: Miss West

LSA: Mrs Hall Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings

Special Needs Support Staff: Miss Oneyekwere, Mrs Dibb, and Mrs Tindall.

Assistant Head and SENDCo: Mrs Angio, Mondays and Tuesdays

As you will notice, we are sadly saying goodbye to a few members of staff at the end of this year. Mr Moseley is relocating to Manchester and Miss Grinter and Miss Daisy are starting at university. All three staff members will be greatly missed and we wish them well on their new journeys. Mrs Walker is still receiving treatment for cancer and we hope to welcome her back later in the school year. Mrs Hall will continue to cover her ELSA role until this point. I am pleased to announce that we are welcoming two new members of staff. Miss Saupe will be joining us as the Year 3/4 Class Teacher and is very excited to be part of the Hambleton Team. She has been working in an Infant and Junior School near here over the last year and will bring this experience with her. Mrs Tindall is joining us as one of our Special Needs Assistants and comes with SENCO experience. I know that you will all join me in welcoming these new staff members.

Year 1 Information

Due to the numbers of children we have in our Key Stage 1 years, we are continuing with the Year R/1 and Year 1/2 model that we have run successfully this year. As done previously, the staff are considering the placement of the current Year R pupils very carefully using their in-depth knowledge of the children as individuals and as a group. They will receive their Year 1 curriculum in whichever class they are in.

Below are some FAQs from when we have had to split year groups in the past. If you have any further questions after reading them, please put them in an email to adminoffice@hambledon.hants.sch.uk or contact the office to arrange an individual meeting with myself.

Why can't all 16 pupils stay together?

There is an Infant Class Size Rule set by the government that says than no Key Stage 1 class can have more than 30 pupils in it. Due to the number of pupils there would be in Year 2 next year, there are not 16 available places for Year 1 to join them.

Will they remain split?

The intention is that they will come back together for Year 2 the following year and stay as a cohort from then. Small schools are always more susceptible to changes in class structures so although I cannot guarantee that they will stay as a cohort going forward, that is the current plan.

What does this mean for my child?

Your child will receive their Year 1 curriculum regardless of which class they are in. Teaching split year groups is something all of our staff are experienced in. We have had Year R/1 classes five times in the last eight years and a Year 1/2 class ongoing since 2017 with no discernible difference in Year 1 outcomes between the two structures. Robins and Kingfishers class teachers have their planning and preparation time together which means they can discuss the shared aspects of Year 1 together. We will continue to employ specialist music teaching next year for Years 1 – 6 and this would include all of the Year 1s regardless of their class. The sports coaching by R&R will continue across all four classes.

For subject areas where they are in their individual classes the same skills and knowledge will be covered but this may be in a different context or at a different time. For example, in Art they would all learn the same painting techniques and knowledge of colour mixing but they may apply this to a different picture.

Will they have time together?

The Year 1s will come together two afternoons a week for their history, science and geography lessons. In the term they receive their specialist music tuition, they will have an additional time slot together for this. If there is a school trip or visit linked to their shared areas of the curriculum, this will be offered to all of the Year 1s such as their Titanic trip to the Sea City museum this year.

Year 1s, regardless of class, will enter and exit the school from the back playground from the start of the year. They will also have play and lunchtimes together.

How will the decisions be made?

Please be assured that the decision making process will be done with your child's best interests at heart. Mrs Bolton and Mrs Frost, with their excellent knowledge of both your child and the Year 1 curriculum and demands, will be reflecting on factors such as independence, confidence, social dynamics and the Early Years and Year 1 curriculum demands. Mrs Bolton, Miss Costar, Mrs Angio and myself will discuss each child on an individual basis. One of the many advantages to a small school such as ours is that all the staff know the pupils really well and can discuss their needs together. If there is anything that you feel would be relevant in this decision making process, that we may not be aware of such as sibling dynamics, then please include the details in an email to the Office if you have not done so already. I would like to stress that this decision will not be made by age or academic ability. This was the successful

approach taken a couple of years ago when splitting our Year 5 cohort between a Year 4/5 and Year 5/6 class and in last year's decision making process for the current Year 1s.

When will I know which class my pupil will be in?

We have begun the discussion process and you will know before any planned transition events take place this term and once informed, the decision will stand.

I hope I have answered many of your questions but if you have any further questions, please do ask.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Blower".

Mrs Blower
Headteacher