

Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 4

As I am sure many of you might know, we mixed up the children in the four Year 4 classes at the end of last academic year as they moved into Y5, and it worked really well – old friendships have been retained, new ones forged and the children have been exposed to new ideas and ways of thinking and working.

We are going to repeat the process for our current Y4 and future Year 4s, and are now considering the make-up of each class.

We will take into account a number of factors in order to ensure that each new class is mixed ability and well balanced, including an even gender split, as well as our knowledge of which combinations of children are likely to work well or not so well, in terms of learning.

Whilst it can often be effective to maintain established friendship groups, this is not always the case and our view is that learning needs in the classroom, will generally take precedence over friendship groupings. The class teachers will, of course, ensure that friendships are taken into account, with and during school time we will ask the children themselves to provide us with a list of friends that they would like to be with. We are not expecting parents to provide us with a list of their child's 'best friends', but to only inform us with any further information if appropriate, by **Wednesday 7th June** at the very latest

We fully appreciate that some parents may have questions they will want to ask and we recommend that you contact the Year 4 team directly by email. These are included at the end of this letter.

Please note that we will not be making any changes to class lists after they are published in July.

We believe that a re-organisation of classes as the children move into Upper School is beneficial for so many reasons: not only does this give an opportunity for the cohort to explore new working relationships and friendship groupings, it also provides the opportunity to experience comfortable 'change' in a safe and known environment, prior to secondary transfer at the end of Y6. We also recognise that the make-up and dynamics of classes change over time, and allowing new bonds and relationships to form can have a powerful impact upon a child's ability to learn more about themselves.

Yours sincerely



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