

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you about our future plans. Now that we have been open for half a term, we have far more knowledge about your children, their needs and the standards they are working at. We have gathered prior assessment data from the children's previous schools to use as a starting point to set individual targets in maths, reading and writing. In the past few weeks our teachers have assessed all the children so that there is a secure baseline from which to work and ensure that everyone makes good progress in the core subjects and through our broad and rich curriculum.

Since opening our school, additional children have joined our Sherford Vale family and we have a waiting list for children to join us in the new year. In view of this we have reviewed our class structure in order to make timely adjustments and ensure we maximise teaching over this half term and beyond.

Hedgehogs Class - From January we will have an additional teacher who will work alongside Miss Ramsey using the adjoining classroom. There will be times when all the children are together and others when Foundation Stage children will be taught by the new teacher and Years 1 and 2 are taken by Miss Ramsey. By working alongside each other everyone should benefit and the children will not be unsettled. We also have a student teacher from Exeter University working with Hedgehogs Class in the Spring term, Miss Aldridge is working with us now for two weeks in preparation for the Spring.

Fox and Owls Classes - Presently the children are taught in the morning as Year 3, and Year 4,5,6 and they are together in the afternoon. The number of children in Key Stage 2 has increased and this class now has too many children in the afternoon to ensure we can accurately match the curriculum to the age and stage of the children. From the week beginning 19th November the children will be separated to form a Year 3/ 4 class and a Year 5/ 6 class all day. This has many advantages including being able to deliver the curriculum in a more focused way and ensure progression, plus of course all the children know both the teachers as they have been taught by both teachers each afternoon. This will also support our swimming programme which will necessitate some core lessons being taught in the afternoon. Key Stage 2, will benefit further from having a teaching assistant to support children. There are another 6 weeks in this half term which is valuable learning time, hence the decision to make this move sooner rather than later.

I acknowledge that change is often accompanied by concerns and questions. I hope you can understand why this revision is being proposed and to reassure you, I do not anticipate any additional changes during the year. If you have any questions that you would like to discuss with the class teachers or myself then please speak to one of us directly or pop in to the studio hall at the end of school on Tuesday 13th November or between 8.30 and 9am on Wednesday 14th November.

Thank you for reading this information and please do get in touch if you have any queries or feedback.

Best wishes,

Helen Tipping
Headteacher