



Dore Primary School

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Dear Parent or Carer,

As you know, we have two awkward size cohorts with 75 children in each of Y1 and Y2. In 2014-2015 these children have worked as 5 mixed age Y1/2 classes. If our building had been appropriate and not separate Infant and Junior buildings, there is little doubt that we would have moved the 5 classes up to make mixed age Y2/3 classes. However, this is not practical. Parents from the year groups, that may have been affected with change, completed a questionnaire in December 2014 and staff and governors consulted with the School Change Team in 2 meetings. The Senior Leadership Team of the school has made the decision that there will be 1 mixed age class with 15 Y1 children and 15 Y2 in 2015-16. This single Y2/Y3 mixed age class in September 2015 will have additional resources and will work fully with the 2 Y3 classes. All the parents of the children in the mixed age class have been notified and **we much appreciate** the consideration and understanding these individuals have shown to the school in this situation, which we would all rather be without. **I do trust that other parents will be sensitive to ALL in this situation.** A few parents expressed dismay that the reaction of other parents could make life more difficult than it need be regarding moving forward into the next year.

Class lists for all classes will be produced just before the transition dates – 7th and 8th July. This year the current Reception/F2, Y1 and Y2, Y3 and Y5 classes will be reforming into new groups. As mentioned before, the staff will form the new classes using their very detailed knowledge of the children in their class with regards to work and behaviour attitude, as well as friends. We are returning to this method which has worked very well before at Dore. We are not asking the children or their parents to suggest names and this has been discussed with, and approved by, the governing body as well as the staff.

This is a regular process at Dore and is a good chance to remix groups giving opportunities for children to make new friendships and in some cases for children to have a fresh start in a different group giving more space in learning and play relationships.

Warm regards

Sue Hopkinson
Headteacher

