



# Highcliffe St. Mark Primary School & Fledglings Pre-School

A Church of England Foundation School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin to look ahead to September, we wanted to let you know that information about your child's class for the new academic year will be sent home on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July**.

Ahead of that, we thought it would be helpful to explain a little about how classes are organised and the careful thought that goes into these decisions. Following feedback from our parent representatives, we know many families appreciate understanding the process behind class allocations.

One of the strengths of being a three-form entry school is the opportunity it gives children to work and learn alongside a wide range of peers. As part of this, we periodically reorganise classes to help children develop new friendships, build confidence and experience different learning groups. We mix classes in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5.

We do not mix classes between Reception and Year 1 or between Year 2 and Year 3. These transitions already involve significant changes for children, including adapting to a new curriculum and moving into a new key stage. For Year 3 pupils, there is also the move into a different building. By keeping classes together at these key transition points, we aim to reduce the number of changes children experience at one time and support a smooth and settled start.

Creating classes is a detailed process that draws on the knowledge and experience of staff who know the children well. While we begin formal discussions around summer half term, we continually consider children's social, emotional and academic needs throughout the year.

When forming classes, we take into account a range of factors, including:

- Friendship groups and social dynamics
- Academic attainment and progress
- SEND and EHCP provision to ensure balanced support
- Individual pastoral needs and recent circumstances
- Learning behaviours and classroom relationships

Our aim is always to create classes where every child has the best possible opportunity to be happy, settled and successful in their learning.

These decisions are made collaboratively by staff and are informed by our day-to-day knowledge of the children. Rather than asking children to select friends they would like to be placed with, we use our professional understanding of their friendships, interactions and learning needs to create balanced classes.

We appreciate that any change can feel significant for children and families. However, we are confident in the classes we have created and know from experience that children adapt remarkably quickly. We encourage you to speak positively about the changes ahead, as your reassurance and enthusiasm can have a powerful impact on how your child approaches their new class.



We would also like to share a few staffing updates:

- We will be saying goodbye to Mr Morgan, who is joining a school closer to his family home in Somerset.
- Congratulations to Mrs Ashbee, who is expecting her first baby early in the autumn term. Mrs Greenall will be joining Mrs Pandit in our Fledglings pre-school provision.
- We will also be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Durham from our pastoral team, who is moving to Priestlands School to continue supporting young people in their education.

On **Wednesday 8th July**, children will spend time with their new teacher and teaching assistants as part of our transition programme. On the same day, families are warmly invited to visit classrooms and meet staff during our informal drop-in session from **3.30pm to 4.30pm**. No booking is required.

Finally, please note that children will remain in the same House Colour when they move into their new class in September.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to another exciting year ahead.

Very best wishes,



Claire Barker