



# Shirley Junior School

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26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, schools have been given extra funding from the Government to support pupils progress in their learning as a result of the previous years' lockdowns.

Shirley Junior School has made the decision to use some of this money to create 4 smaller class groups in Year 5, adding in an extra teacher, so that all pupils make at least expected progress by the end of Year. We believe this will help all children to make the progress they need both academically and emotionally so that they can be ready to leave our school in July 2023. Smaller class sizes will enable the teachers to increase one to one tuition for the pupils in their class during learning time.

In order for this transition to four class groups to take place and maximise learning opportunities, these new class groups will change now in Year 5, starting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

We are fortunate to have space to create a fourth class in the upper corridor, as well as flexibility with current staffing, for this to take place. Mrs Tearle will be joining the Year team with Mrs Booth, Mrs Mendez, Miss Roberts and Miss Chalk.

The children have trialled these new class groups before half term across several sessions. We understand this may cause some anxiety for children and parents and therefore we have planned a phased change across this week to give the children a chance to get used to their new class group and teacher. We want to work with you to ensure a smooth transition to these new groups over this week. It is important that you and your child share any worries they have. The teachers have worked hard to ensure pupils have both friends and those children they work well with, in class. They have also taken in to account the information parents shared with us at the end of Year 4 as well as new knowledge we know about the children. If you have any concerns, please share these with your child's current teacher,

The class teachers have spoken with all the children today about this change, they have spent time in their new classes and had the opportunity to have a circle time with their current teacher. The Year 5 celebration event tomorrow, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2:45pm will be set up in their new class with their new teacher and peers. If you are unable to attend this event and would like to come up to meet the teachers at a different time, please contact the office to arrange this.

As part of this transition, we are hoping that the children will be introduced to their Year 6 teachers in the final summer term. There will be four Year 6 teachers in the team and the children will stay in the class groups we have created in Year 5 starting in May 2022. We hope that these teachers will have some opportunities to teach their new class group for part of the children's summer project learning. The children will move to their 'new' Year 6 classroom as usual in these new class groups in September.

Your child's class teacher in the Year 5 team till July 2022 will be:

Miss Chalk  
Miss Roberts  
Mrs Mendez/Mrs Tearle (2 days a week)  
Mrs Booth/Miss Anderson (1 day a week)

Kind Regards  
Annette Hixon

**Headteacher : Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE**

