

Water Primary School

Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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I just wanted to write to give you further information regarding the planned class structure for the next academic year. From time to time as a school leader, Headteacher and governor difficult decisions need to be taken in the best interests of the whole school, it's community and of course it's pupils. No decision is ever taken lightly. Much thought, deliberation and planning goes into every decision. The overall aim and ethos which has underpinned the school's success over the last seven years is the high quality teaching and learning which takes place daily in our classrooms. Outstanding teaching which I observe daily and see at first hand, day in day out. A high quality curriculum and standard of teaching will never be compromised, nor will the safety of the children, either in terms of safeguarding or routines, policies and procedures we put in place.

The long term sustainability of the school needs to be considered. The implications of having a maximum of twenty children on roll makes this difficult. I am proud of having the only school in Rossendale to remain class sizes under 20. However I am also pragmatic enough to consider the wider implications of the financial impact of Covid-19, teacher recruitment and additional factors. We analyse the structure of the school every year and we always make an informed decision based on the needs of the school.

Mixed aged classes work well, we are a great school with great teachers. It will work, we will make it work and if it doesn't or you don't feel it is working for your child then our doors will always be open to discuss. I urge you all to trust the decisions we take and make. We are proud of the decisions we have taken over the years and we are proud of the great school we have become. Water Primary School will continue to ensure our children are cared for, engaged with their learning and reach their potential.

Apologies for the timing of the information. I would have course liked to have given you all more time to digest and for also the children to spend time in their new classroom. I am sure you will understand the pressures and stress the school is currently under in terms of Covid, isolations and staff absences, and not to mention all of the end of year activities that need completing. Hopefully the additional information below will ease your fears for next year.

- Year 1 will be taught Maths by Miss Hodgson in the old Willow Class
- Year 1 and Year 2 will enjoy our Forest School activities in their own year groups
- Year 1 and Year 2 will enjoy the PE curriculum in their own year groups
- Phonics will be streamed across EYFS and KS1 to ensure this is taught in small groups and to the needs of every child
- We have appointed a new Teaching Assistant Miss Crowther to work alongside EYFS, Y1 and Y2
- We have appointed an excellent and highly skilled new teacher Miss Ashworth to teach Hazel Class. Miss Ashworth is caring, patient, enthusiastic and will inspire your children to reach their potential
- Hazel Class will also have, in addition to Miss Crowther, two highly experienced Teaching Assistants to help
- Mrs Edington will work alongside both Acorn Class and Hazel Class to ensure the smooth transition for the children until her maternity leave in October.
- I will be mentoring Miss Ashworth through her induction period



- We are looking to appoint a new languages teacher to work alongside all classes in order to deliver a high quality languages curriculum.
- The children will be together within their year groups for all lunchtimes and breaks
- I will be working throughout the summer to ensure routines, procedures, opportunities and experiences are in place to make sure our children are happy, healthy, active and all reach their potential

Let us not forget what makes our school great! The critical ingredients to our success. Our curriculum, experiences and opportunities are renowned locally and nationally as being the best on offer. We have brilliant, caring and passionate teachers and support staff who put the needs of the children first. We have our own PE teacher who delivers outstanding PE daily. We have a Forest School Lead and Outdoor Curriculum which is the envy of every school locally. The children receive lessons which are highly motivating, engaging and inspires our children. The school has passionate school leaders and governors who are determined to make sure our children receive the very best provision and care.

Please trust the school, its decisions and actions. Every decision is made in the best interests of its community and children.

Personally, I would much rather have a year of high quality provision, experiences and opportunities than settling for anything less or the standard we have come to expect at Water Primary School. Please trust us, and myself to ensure this happens. I currently mentor a Headteacher in Burnley, I am involved in a recent project which involves all of the schools in Rossendale, I am assisting a school in Yorkshire on their provision and curriculum and Water Primary is an amazing school with brilliant people. That will never change whilst I am here.

As always, come October and you are not happy with elements to school life, then our doors are always open.

Kind regards

Mr Willan
Headteacher