

15 Augusta Place Royal Leamington Spa CV32 5EL

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Tuesday 25th April 2017

Dear St. Peter's families,

Welcome back to school for the Summer term; I can hardly believe that so much of the year has already passed! I hope you all had a lovely and relaxing Easter Holiday with your families.

At this time of the year, we are very busy making arrangements for September; it seems such a long way off but in school, we work a term ahead so that we can be as prepared as possible. The question that I get asked most frequently at this time of the year is 'How will classes be arranged in September?' I would like to take this opportunity to explain how and when this decision is likely to be made.

The school's admission number is 15; this means we can only take 15 children each year, unless there are extenuating circumstances that are beyond the school's control. In previous years, significantly more than 15 children have been admitted to a year group and this means that the traditional R/1, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 structure is not possible without having class sizes of around 40. I'm sure that you'll agree that this is not ideal for either children or staff. This is why in September 2016, we changed the way we organised our classes so that Year 3 were split, not Year 1 as has traditionally happened.

At this point in the year, I am unable to determine the class sizes for the following reasons:

- 1) 15 offers have been sent to the new reception children and I must wait to find out how many have been accepted and if there are any parents appealing the decision not to offer their child a place. The deadline for parents to lodge an appeal is May 22nd and all appeals will be heard by 21st July. After appeals have been heard, I will know year group numbers and can arrange classes for next year. The latest that this could be is 21st July, but hopefully, we will have enough information to inform parents by 14th July at the latest.
- 2) In the Summer term, many parents make new educational choices for their children and we have several children that move to new places and new schools. If you know that you are moving your child to a new school, it would be really helpful for you to let me know in writing as soon as this becomes definite. Already, some parents have sent me this notification, for which I am grateful.

Last year, several parents told me that they did not like how the change in organisation was communicated because they didn't know it was coming and it felt like a shock. I understand this and would like to avoid this from happening again. In order to prepare all parents, I would like to inform you that everyone will be informed about class organisation in a letter that will be sent with end of year reports on Friday, 14th July. In the following week, transition day has been arranged for the children to meet their new teachers on Monday 17th July. Teachers will be available to meet with any parent who wishes to discuss class organisation (or anything else concerning their child's education!) after school that day. I hope that this helps you all feel well equipped and prepared for any changes that may come along.

Best wishes,

Miss T. McNamara Headteacher



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