



# Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs O Gibbons

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Date:

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so pleased to have everyone back in school for the summer term and are now thinking forward to our transition arrangements and the next academic year.

Sutton in Craven CE Primary has a commitment to ensure that all children flourish and reach their potential at any point in their learning journey. Teachers work closely together on the curriculum themes and learning opportunities to enable individuals to do their best.

As you know, there are 26 children in Year 4 this year and this will necessitate a change to our current class structure as we have done successfully many times in the past. This change in class structure will not affect the quality of education that we offer here at Sutton CE Primary School. The new class structure will be:

Class name	Year Groups	Class teacher
Blossom	Year R and Year 1	Mrs Davison/Mrs Akroyd
Willow	Year 2 and Year 3	Miss Margetson
Birch	Year 4 and Year 5	Mrs Campbell/Mrs Rothwell
Oak	Year 5 and Year 6	Mrs Harrison

As we have a yearly reception class intake and PAN of 15, we run a split class model and have done this successfully for many years. Neither of these combinations are new to the school or teaching staff and have been planned for considering all aspects.

I appreciate that you will have questions about this and I aim to answer many of them below.

### Why can't all 26 pupils stay together?

Although there is no statutory limit on the size of any class above Key Stage One in England, it can be agreed that excessive class size is detrimental to the education of children. We therefore have to make the decision to split our current Year 4 class across a mixed class of Year 4 and Year 5 and a mixed class of Year 5 and Year 6. This is so that we keep our class sizes at appropriate sizes and ensure high quality education for all children.

### Will Year 5 remain split?

The intention is that they will come back together for Year 6 the following year, 2022 – 2023, for their last year in school.

### What does this mean for my child?

Your child will receive their Year 5 curriculum regardless of which class they are in. Teaching split year groups is something all of our staff are experienced in. We have had Year 4/5 and 5/6 classes previously. Birch and Oak class teachers have many opportunities to plan and prepare together which means they can discuss the shared aspects of





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Year 5 together. This work has already begun for September 2021 and will continue throughout the next academic year. We will continue to employ specialist sports coaches next year for Year R – Year 6 and this includes all our Year 5s regardless of their class. PPA time will continue across all four classes planned and delivered by Mrs Williamson in liaison with the class teachers. Restrictions allowing, we are hoping to ‘close’ our bubble system and return more to our normal routines meaning the children would be together at different times of the day.

## How will the decisions be made?

Please be assured that the decision making process was done with your child’s best interests at heart. Mrs Rothwell, Mrs Campbell and Miss Margetson with their excellent knowledge of both your child and the Year 5 curriculum and demands have reflected on factors such as independence, confidence, social dynamics and the Year 5 curriculum demands. Mrs Campbell, Mrs Rothwell, Miss Margetson and myself discussed each child on an individual basis. One of the many advantages to a small school such as ours is that all the staff know the pupils really well and can discuss their needs together. I would like to stress that this decision was not made by age or academic ability. This was the successful approach taken a couple of years ago when splitting the cohort between a Year 2/3 and Year 3/4 class.

## When will I know which class my pupil will be in?

The teaching staff have been continuously gathering information as mentioned above alongside having many detailed discussions. The decisions have been made in the best interests of the children.

**Your child will be in the Year 4/5 class and their class teachers will be Mrs Campbell and Mrs Rothwell.**

**Your child will be in the Year 5/6 class and their class teacher will be Mrs Harrison.**

As yet, we have not received any guidance from Central Government, the Local Authority or Public Health that allows us to make any final decisions on amending our comprehensive risk assessment as to what school will look like for children and staff in September, although we are really hoping for no ‘bubbles’. We are working continuously ensuring that our children, families and staff remain as safe as possible with the current protective measures in place. We hope that we have this guidance very soon to allow us bring our plans for transitions arrangements and activities to fruition. We will inform all parents about our in-school Move-Up Mornings as soon as we receive final guidance and amend our risk assessments where appropriate.

I hope I have answered many of your questions but if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.

With very best wishes,

*Orla Gibbons*

Mrs Orla Gibbons

Headteacher

