



Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

Excellence in how we worship, learn and work together

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Headteacher: David Winn **Deputy Headteacher:** Pauline Thomas **Assistant Headteacher:** Lesley Saddington

Wednesday 29th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of Years Two and Three,

As the school year draws to an end, our preparations for the 2022-23 academic year are in full swing. I am writing to you with an important update regarding our Year Three and Four classes for next year.

You may be aware that our school (and the borough of Lambeth) has seen a reduction in the number of children arriving each year. This trend began in 2018 and is projected to continue for at least another five years. There are a range of reasons for this, from a reduction in birth rate to the cost of living in our area.

Our school is gradually evolving into a one-form entry setting, which means that we have one class per year group. We see this as a temporary measure and aim for Holy Trinity to become a two-form entry school again as soon as possible. This change in structure means that we have had to say goodbye to some excellent members of staff over the past 12 months, as we simply cannot sustain the number of staff we have when our numbers of children are decreasing. This issue is a common problem for schools in our local area.

I am writing to inform you that we must change the structure of our Year Three and Four cohort for the next academic year. At this time, we have 34 children in Year Two and 38 children in Year Three. Each year group should have over 50 children in to be financially sustainable. Therefore, we must create the following structure for next year:

- 1 x Year Three Class with 28 children
- 1 x Year Three & Four Class with 23 children
- 1 x Year Four Class with 22 children

The 'vertical group' Year Three & Four class will focus on both the Year Three and Four curriculum, and will have seven Year Two children in. I have made contact directly with those seven children's parents to explain our decision. The current Year Two and Year Three staff met with me to complete our cohort list for next year. We took into account learning needs, personalities and friendships and have tried to ensure a fair and positive balance to all three classes. Your child's next class teacher and support staff will be shared with you in the last week of term.

Whilst I understand that this news may concern you somewhat, I wish to reassure you that restructuring year groups with few children in is very common and we have experience of making this work at Holy Trinity. I would like to invite you to an open forum for parents and carers in Year Two and Three next Tuesday 5th July at 2.45pm in the school hall. I hope to see many of you there. As ever, I will be available before and after school to speak to you if that is more convenient.

Thank you for your ongoing wonderful support for our school. We are truly grateful.

Kind regards,

Mr Winn

Headteacher