



Falcon Junior School

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Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all keeping well during this difficult time. We are in the midst of unprecedented health crisis which is making everyday life for everyone exceptionally challenging; we look forward to when we can all meet again and bring some normality back to our lives.

Falcon Junior has been closed since March, however, a skeleton staff has remained in place to support the small number of critical worker children. Staff have been working hard, making plans for the future and how best we can deliver the education moving forward.

Myself and other senior leaders have been looking closely at the transition from lower school into upper school and a number of other factors. As a result, we have identified a need to mix the classes up as the children move from Year 4 into Year 5. This will, from this point, happen every year at the end of Year 4. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- When the children enter Falcon Junior from the Infants Schools, classes are arranged purely on friendship to ensure children settle well.
- New and different needs have developed over the last two years at Falcon.
- Over two years, friendships change.
- As a result, some classes are now weighted differently in terms of need, progress, behaviour, resilience and attitude to learning.
- There is now a difference between the classes in attainment eg a reading age range of 9 months between classes.

Mixing the classes up will create a more even spread and will help children receive the support they need. This will allow attainment and progress of all pupils to accelerate.

We will make sure that mixing the classes will be done as sensitively as possible, particularly at this time of uncertainty. We will look closely at a number of factors when finalising new classes for September, working closely with the Year 4 staff who know the children really well to ensure that friendships are maintained and that the children will have some pupils they know and enjoy being with.

I wanted to communicate this to you well in advance of the end of the academic year; this gives plenty of time for children to be aware of this and allows us plenty of time to get the classes right for all concerned. We will communicate the new classes to you in July ready for a September start.

Thank you for your continued support and keep safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E J Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style.

E J Savage
Headteacher