

Meeting:	Parent/Carer Forum
Date and Time:	25 th April, 2018 – 6.30pm
Venue:	Hagley Primary School (HPS)
Representing HPS:	Rob Tindell (Deputy Head Teacher) and Tess Davis (Governor)
Representing Parents/Carers:	Natalie Timbell, , Emma Downes, Amanda Everton, Alison Akers, Alison Lowe, Dawn Collett, Shuva Bateman
Apologies:	Charlotte Zimmermann, Anna Smith and Alison Akers Sameen Ifran ,Arti Shah, Aparna Anumakonda

Agenda:

1. Class splits (mixing classes)
2. New building work taking place at school

1. Class Splits

Why does the school split?

The fundamental reason relates to the equal distribution of children across each year group. We need to look at the profile of all the classes and not just 1 class or 1 individual. We also recognise how some children will benefit from becoming more independent or detaching themselves from less desirable partnerships. Furthermore, mixing classes provides pupils with the opportunity to develop social skills as they build new friendship circles.

Which year groups do we split?

Historically we have split Year 2 and Year 4. Last year we decided that we would take each year as it comes with the view that any year group may be split.

How is the split organised?

Class teachers work together to map out the new classes as they understand the academic, social and emotional characteristics of the pupils. Where possible, we take into account:

- Mixed ability
- Equal distribution of boys and girls
- Equal distribution of children with SEND
- Behaviour
- Clashes of personality
- Friendships

Staff spend a significant amount of time reviewing classes, including SLT, before announcing these to the children and parents.

Do the children have a choice?

Children have typically been asked to provide between 3 - 5 names of children who they would like to be with. The school try their best to guarantee 1 of these choices, although, on occasion, we have not been able to fulfil any choices e.g. when all choices are of children who may not be the best learning influence.

We do not tend to move children around once a split has been decided. Most classes are full and therefore changing a child would impact on another child in a different class. However, if there is a child who is upset then we are more than happy to speak with them and the parents.

When does the school announce the split?

We like to announce the classes once we know the staff working in each year group. Therefore, it is usually in the last half of the Summer term. We then plan transition afternoons for the children and staff to get to know each other/begin to form friendships.

2. New building work

What building work will be taking place?

Approximately 4 years ago we were pledged a sum of money from County as a result of the new housing development.

There was a strict criterion on how we could spend this money and many conversations have taken place between school and the local authority regarding our plans.

We have recently been given planning permission for the following:

- 2 new classrooms
- A new learning hub replacing Wrens and Penguins, located near the front office
- A new terrace/canopy area for Reception
- An extension to the staffroom and improvement of staff toilets
- Increased area for storage

When will this be taking place?

We hope for the new building work to commence from the half term break and it will probably run up until October 2018.

All parents will shortly be informed in a letter from the school and Governing Body.

RT thanked the parent representatives who have sat on the forum for the past 2 years. As agreed when the forum was set up, representatives can only represent their child's year group for a maximum of 2 years before new representatives are balloted.

Next meeting: Autumn term once new parent forum representatives are selected.