



Glebe Primary School

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Dear Year 4 Parents,

After much deliberation we have decided to split the current Year 4 classes as they move in to Year 5. The decision to split classes is never taken lightly and a great deal of time and thought is put in to allocating the new classes. Teachers do take in to account friendship groups but this is just one aspect of the decision and is the one that is most difficult to satisfy all children.

Pupil ability, particular needs and class dynamics are all taken in to account when deciding new classes. However, the primary objective is to ensure that children are in classes where they have the best chance possible of doing well. Therefore, some friendship pairs or groups may have to be split but the children will still see lots of each other, for example on the playground and when working across the year group. Working with new children is good experience for the future and is all part of the process of building children's character.

Once the classes are decided, there is not scope to move children between classes as even one move impacts on everything else. Likewise, we cannot do straight swaps at the request of parents or children. Any initial disappointment rarely lasts long and, should there be any disappointment, I would urge you to dwell on the positives: this is an opportunity to make new friends rather than mourning the loss of an old one.

The same can sometimes be true of parents who have built up friendships with other parents from their child's class. Again we have to stay focussed on ensuring the class groupings are based on what works best to help the children's learning rather than anything else.

The teachers will be discussing the forthcoming split with the children before half term and will give them the opportunity to nominate some children they would like to be with. We always try to put children with at least one of their choices but it may not be their first choice. I would urge you to discuss these choices in the next few days. There have been occasions when children have chosen children they would like to be friends with rather than those they actually are friends with. Your child's class teacher will happily discuss this with you, if necessary. We will be trialling different combinations after half term before we confirm the new classes.

As we wish to keep this a positive process, we won't accept 'negative' nominations, i.e. names of children that your child doesn't want to be with (either from children or parents). The class teachers will be very aware of class dynamics and any ongoing issues and will take this in to account.

I hope that this information is useful to you and we will endeavour to make the best possible job of the split which will be reported to you in early July before Meet the Teacher morning and Open Evening.

Yours sincerely

M. Penney

Mrs Penney
Head Teacher

