



**Kingsnorth Church of England Primary School,**  
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Head of School: Mrs S Sullivan

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to inform you of some important changes for our Year 1 children moving into Year 2 in September.

The coronavirus pandemic has had, and continues to have, a profound effect on everyone. Worldwide children have had a disrupted school life, with many days missed in the learning environment of classrooms. We are fully aware and appreciate that our Year 1 children are amongst many that have missed out on social school events like sports days, fetes, discos and trips, whilst also being unable to attend parties, playdates and building relationships with all of their peers. On top of this, the children have missed many days in the school learning environment with a class teacher and teaching assistant and were denied daily teaching of phonics, Maths, reading and writing and have not experienced all of the insightful wider curriculum subjects.

At Kingsnorth, we want to ensure all of our children have as many positive opportunities to reach their potential and aspire to be the very best that they can, in every aspect of school life and beyond. Therefore the decision has been made to mix the children into 2 new classes from September 2021.

This decision has involved huge consideration of the children's needs; mentally, socially, spiritually and academically and in liaison with the Year 1 team as well as the Senior Leadership team and SENco. Our aim of mixing the classes is to ensure that the children are able to learn in calm, inspirational environments, have their social and emotional needs met through new interactions and to feel safe and secure in a well-balanced classroom.

All decisions made are based on a number of factors within the classes, these include

- Male/female numbers
- Summer term birth
- Social skills
- Emotional needs
- Academic ability
- Friendship groups

As we hope you can appreciate, a great deal of thought and consideration has gone into this process and the children's wellbeing has remained paramount throughout – we desperately want our Year 1s to have the best learning journey they can after such a 'messy' start.

There is often anxiety surrounding change, however, we feel it is far better to make this decision now, when the children haven't had much time to bond and gel, than further into their school journeys. The children will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers during transition afternoons and will be spending increasing amount of time together as a year group, learning outside together and in line with current Covid rules.

Should you wish to discuss this with a member of the Year 1 team or Leadership team, please contact us either via email or phone the school office.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S Sullivan  
Head of School