



Class Arrangements for 2017-18 -Additional Information For Parents

Do you need volunteers to help in school?

Yes please, we do! We have a range of activities that need adult support including hearing children read, making resources, lunchtime supervisors, accompanying the swimmers, going on trips, transporting children to events, helping with clubs.... the list is endless. If you have any time to spare either weekly, monthly or on an ad hoc basis, we can always find a job to be done, although we like you to work away from your own child to ensure they carry on with their learning. All adults who support us have to be cleared for safeguarding reasons and so complete a DBS check which can be accessed through the office.

Our Friends (Parent Teacher Association) is another great way to get involved in the school, don't worry you don't have to join the committee or make lots of meetings! We need people who can just help out for an event, be responsible for a small project like decorate the egg competition or help with publicity or ...

Just leave your details with the office, or drop us a note and someone will be in touch with you soon.

I may have skills/ experience that is useful to the school. How can I offer my support?

We would like to start a Parent Talent/Flair Register which we can refer to for example e.g. work on Pets- has someone experience of working with animals, people who can cook, sew etc for any special projects we do in school and are happy for us to contact them with this in mind. We are looking to compile one in the Autumn Term, so look out for the letter!

Can I suggest some ideas for the Friends/ Staff to consider?

Yes of course! We are introducing a SUGGESTIONS BOX in the entrance lobby which we look at each week.

How can I help my child at home with their homework?

In the Autumn we will be running information sessions in English, especially phonics, as well as other workshops during the year. We will also offer advice at our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in September.

Listening to, and reading to your child is an essential part of their development. It is how young children learn new language, rhyme, rhythm..... It is also a suitable way to help older children become book-lovers.

Involving children in daily activities at home is also a great way to subtly help their learning: cooking, shopping, playing with money etc

How does Communication work between home and school?

Our weekly Newsletter and website (www.tysoe.warwickshire.sch.uk) have most of the regular information from school. Topic webs sent out at the beginning and end of each term provide information about the different areas of learning.

Mrs Horrocks, our School Business Manager, is always happy to help in the Office. However, we encourage our children to be as independent as early as possible and ask that you support this by sending dinner money, letters etc with your child to their class each morning where they will be sorted, rather than the Office.

If you need to leave a message e.g. about someone different collecting your child, pop a letter in your child's book-bag. Obviously arrangements do change in an emergency, but our Office is not staffed permanently so please try to ensure your child is clear at the start of the day about arrangements at the end of the day.

If you have a query about your child, your first point of call is always the class teacher. Mrs Coates the Head of School has her own teaching commitment on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning, so is usually unavailable on those days. Monday after school is also staff training each week so no staff are available that evening. If you do need to see Mrs Coates please speak to Mrs Horrocks at the office.

Our school telephone number is 01295 680244 and the school email address is admin3068@welearn365.com

How can I find out how my child is progressing?

The first opportunity for you to see how well your child is settling in will be at the 'Meet and Greet' afternoon at the end of the school day, held in the classroom during the first week of term in September (or second week for new Reception).

Following discussions with parents, the first Parents Evenings to discuss progress will take place later in the Autumn Term than last year. However, the plan is to introduce another informal drop-in session so that your child can show you their learning in their books, which many parents have said will be useful.

Why did you base the classes on age for the Y1 children next year?

The following are considered when arranging classes: age, attainment and potential, gender, random selection, behaviour/ Special Educational Needs, friendships, siblings, relationships. Most schools arrange classes based on age.

Research has been done on the impact of what are the most important factors in mixed age classes by John Hattie.

- ▶ 1. Class size Low 0.21
- ▶ 2. **Teacher/student relationship High 0.75**
- ▶ 3. **Feedback High 0.72**
- ▶ 4. Homework Low 0.29
- ▶ 5. **Ability grouping Low 0.12**
- ▶ 6. **Classroom discussion High 0.82**
- ▶ 7. Moving schools Low -0.34
- ▶ 8. Matching style of learning Low 0.17
- ▶ 9. **Meta-cognitive strategies (higher order thinking skills) High 0.69**
- ▶ 10. Assessment literate students High 1.44

The most important factor in pupil progress is the quality of teaching.

See <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/toolkit-a-z> 'results of the overseas research as well as the Victorian study point to the critical role played by the teacher in any form of class grouping or class organisation. **Ultimately, it is the quality of the teaching programme and the effectiveness of the teacher that determines the programme's outcomes.** *Marion M. de Lemos (Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Council for Educational Research)*

How are children prepared for the changes in September?

When the new Reception children come into school for their four transition visits this term, current Reception children will spend the time in their new class groups to give them time to integrate with the different children (either new Reception or Year 1). There is also a 'move-up' morning near the end of term when all children in school go to work in their 'September' classrooms.

Also in September, new Reception children will only be in school during the mornings, which will give the new Year 1 children remaining with Ms Rogers the chance to settle into their new Year 1 learning and understand the different routines and expectations from being in Reception.

How do staff ensure children are challenged in mixed/split classes?

Differentiation is something that teachers learn during their training because it is needed in every lesson, even in a single age group class. The children may all start the lesson together, however, the teacher will be asking questions for children at all abilities and setting appropriate learning tasks. Not a single minute of learning time can be wasted for anyone regardless of their ability. At Tysoe there is already a wide range of needs within each class and year group and the teachers are already proficient at adapting the curriculum to meet the pupils' individual needs across the curriculum, including some existing mixed age classes.

How are the Teaching Assistants allocated throughout the school?

Teaching Assistants are not merely classroom helpers, they are well trained staff with a variety of skills. Some of our TAs spend most of their time working to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and who have an Education Health Care Plan which provides some legal standing and some financial support from the Local Authority. When those pupils leave the school, the associated Teaching Assistant hours also finish. Hours are also allocated according to the needs of the children, with younger children requiring more help and those with Special Needs necessitating support too. Another vital role is for Teaching Assistants to run intervention programmes for individuals or small groups of children across the school, these currently include a focus on phonics, maths, writing and nurture.

Why are the Class Teachers sometimes out of the classroom?

All full-time teachers are legally entitled to a half day out of the classroom for Planning, Preparation and Administration time (PPA time) and this can be covered in schools in a variety of ways, including use of Teaching Assistants (at a higher level) who use the teacher's planning or through Sport's Coaches.

How do you ensure the identity of children in mixed age classes?

Children need to have opportunities to socialise with their friends and maintain their identity within their Year group. The children will have all their playtimes together with their peers, including eating their lunch and lining up at the end of play. The current arrangements for buddy reading will continue in September so that Year 1 will be partnered with Year 3, and Year 2 will be paired with Years 5 and 6. It is also planned

for Year 1 to have sports lessons together but, as yet, this is not yet confirmed with with Aspire, the sports' coaches. Year 6 will continue to have privileges such as office duty, leading School Council, and being ambassadors and guides at Open Morning. After School Clubs will be offered to Year groups, so the children can continue to socialise with their friends. Other activities organised for Year groups include sports events like the Swimming Gala and Kwik Cricket Tournament. When we plan the Autumn Timetable in depth at the end of term and across the Summer, we will look at other opportunities for year groups to collaborate for example for phonics.

Are trips the same for the year groups regardless of which class they are in?

Teachers organise visitors/trips to support the learning in class, so these will need to match the topic that each class is studying. We will endeavour to include some activities across the school where children can be involved with their year group eg. whole school projects like multi-cultural week.

Who will be swimming next year?

The National Curriculum expectation is that children can swim 25m by end of Year 6. We have traditionally only taken our Year 2 pupils due to costs.

Parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of the coach, our Friends have paid for the cost of the tuition and pool hire as parents cannot be charged for this as it is within the National Curriculum. Therefore the biggest expense is the transport.

As Year 2 is a small cohort next year, to make this affordable for 2017-18 options include use of a minibus or possibly taking each group of Y1 pupils with the Year 2 on a rota basis. The arrangements will be confirmed once a booking for the pool has been made.