

9th July 2018

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for your support at our Birthday Celebrations last week. We raised over £3,000 which will be used to purchase much needed IT equipment for the children. It was a wonderful community event and we have received lots of really positive feedback.

This term we are both welcoming and saying goodbye to a number of members in our school staff team. Mr Powell is retiring and I am sure that you will join me in wishing him a very long and happy retirement. We will miss his care and compassion and the interest that he has shown in every child. Miss O'Brien is leaving us to begin her teacher training course. This is great for the teaching profession but sad for us at Hookstone as she has been a wonderful member of the Foundation Stage Team. Mr Gray is also leaving to take up a new teaching post. We will miss him here at Hookstone and thank him for his contribution to school improvement. He has been a great colleague and we wish him well in the future. Mrs Smith, our Cook is also leaving us at the end of term and is relocating to Northumberland. She has provided loyal and dedicated service to Hookstone Chase over 23 years and we thank her for all her hard work and professionalism.

We have appointed Miss Chamberlain and Miss Smith to join the teaching team in Key Stage 1 and Mrs Reid, Mrs Jacobs, and Mrs Wiltshire will be new teaching assistants across the school.

I am pleased to inform you that due to a rise in numbers we are opening a new class base, currently Apple Class and there will now be eleven classes at Hookstone.

Over the last few weeks we have been carefully considering the class organisation and structure for next year. Much thought has gone into the classes and the teachers use their professional judgement and knowledge of the children in school and look carefully at the needs of all the children. The classes are made up of children working at all different levels and we consider friendship groups, the social and emotional needs of the children as well as the number of boys and girls in each class. We asked the children to give us the names of a few children that they would like to be in a class with and told them we would try to ensure that the children are with at least one person on their list. With nearly 300 children this is quite a challenge. Please note that there will be no changes to these classes.

All children feel anxious when moving classes and this is perfectly natural but it is a really exciting time with lots of opportunities to make new friends. Please reassure your children that they will continue to see other friends at break times and during joint learning projects as well as playing with them outside of school.

Sycamore	Miss Bridgeman & Mrs Merrett (Friday)
Rowan	Mrs McCarthy
Holly	Miss Chamberlain
Pine	Miss Smith
Willow	Mrs Fitzgibbon
Oak	Mrs Staines (Mon, Tues and Wed am) Mrs Kidd (Wed pm, Thurs and Fri)
Beech	Mrs Charlton
Hawthorn	Mr Hirst
Horse Chestnut	Miss Holmes
Maple	Mrs Hazell
Silver Birch	Mr Parker

Please see attached the plan of the school to see where you child's new class will be in September. Wherever possible, the transition visits will take place in the teacher's current classrooms.

We have a planned series of transition sessions this week for the children to spend time with their new classes:

Wednesday 11th July (morning)

Thursday 12th July (afternoon)

Friday 13th July (morning)

Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Rowe will continue to teach the classes during the teachers' statutory planning, preparation and assessment time and classes will be supported by Teaching Assistants.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Ann L Wheatcroft
Headteacher

