



5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### **Growth Information and Friendship Preferences Request**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from the communication regarding the school growth plan, I am pleased to share further information.

Firstly, we fully recognise and appreciate any concerns and queries that parents may have had following the information shared around the planned growth of our school. Thank you to parents who have been in touch with school directly to ask questions thus allowing us to give further clarity around the planned changes. Following on from this, we wanted to share some further information with the wider parent group as we recognise these concerns and questions may be on many parents' minds.

This is not a decision that the trust and school have taken lightly and a decision that we would not have made if we felt it would be detrimental to our children and the school community. The well-being of the children and the consistency of quality teaching is at the heart of the decisions we have made. We have a genuine commitment to our children and our school.

As previously shared, this project is for the current Year 2 – 5 who will be Year 3 – 6 in September. It will not affect the current EYFS and Year 1. The main benefit is to reduce class sizes across key stage two to below 30 initially and to also cap them at 30 (unless exceptional circumstances) moving forwards. We expect that classes will fill gradually overtime but will benefit from a period of smaller class sizes initially. Without the growth project, we could potentially have seen classes increasing to beyond 33. This is because Warrington, as a local authority, have a legal duty to admit children into a school within a reasonable distance to where they live, and this is what is leading to larger class sizes in all schools in the local area. The demand Chapelford has seen for in year admissions to Key Stage 2 places is significant and highly likely to continue moving forwards. Currently, there are three classes per year group with most classes that are oversubscribed. Our current Year 2 classes, due to infant class size legislation, are all capped at 30 but this is due to see a swift increase in September 2023 due to the number of requests for places that that year group is now experiencing.

In the new academic year, there will now be four classes per year group from years 3-6, each with a maximum number of 30 children (unless exceptional circumstances). This will mean that our class sizes will reduce, and we can continue to provide high quality education and personal development opportunities to meet the needs of all pupils.

#### **Year 5 to Year 6**

We know that many parents in the current Year 5 year group have more questions around the details for the year 6 structure, staffing support and teaching spaces. Further detailed information will be sent directly to our current Year 5 parents by the end of the week.



## Friendship Preferences

The well-being of our children has always been, and will continue to be, our main priority. With this in mind, we are asking parents to consult with their child and **submit three friendship preferences** for the reorganisation of classes. When consulting with your child, please take all aspects of school life into consideration. Ensuring that the children continue to socialise with children across their cohort is also of the highest importance to us in order to maintain existing relationships and we will ensure they continue to have this opportunity to do this during playtimes and lunch times.

We recognise that children may have also developed friendships across the year group and to support this we are asking for the names and class of three children from across your child's year group that you wish to request as a friendship preference. We ask that the form is completed no later than **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July**. This is to ensure that our staff have enough time to consider the preferences and reorganise the classes effectively. Please note that any forms completed after this time will not be able to be considered.

Following receipt of the preferences, year groups will meet, together with the senior leadership team, to ensure that pupils' individual needs and friendship preferences are accounted for. We understand that for some children, moving to a new year group in itself, can be a cause for some anxiety, therefore this process has been given high priority in our preparations for the new academic year. If for any reason friendship groups need to be discussed further with parents, class teachers will contact you via telephone in advance of any decision-making so we can work together to ensure support for all children.

## Transition

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, all children across the school will meet their new teacher. They will spend the day completing a range of activities, including activities with a getting to know you and well-being focus. On this day, the staffing structure for September 2023, will then be shared along with children's individual reports and assigned class teacher/number.

To further support the transition to new classes, for the remainder of the final week, children will have additional opportunities to spend time in their new class groups, with existing staff. This will continue to develop positive relationships and alleviate any worries and concerns through team-building and pastoral activities.

To further support information sharing we are also continuing to update the frequently asked questions on our website. Please follow the FAQ link below:

[link](#)

If you have any concerns or require further information, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you wish to speak to a member of the leadership team directly, please contact the office by telephone or email: [cvpsoffice@cvps.omegamat.co.uk](mailto:cvpsoffice@cvps.omegamat.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Laura Tottie  
Head of School