



The Federation of St Elphege's Catholic Schools

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Reception transition to Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share with parents how we plan to support the children as they continue their education in KS1.

In order to ensure each class remains balanced in response to pupil development, the current Reception classes will be mixed as they go into Year 1 in September. This is a regular activity which we complete each year. The decisions made on how the classes are mixed are based on the professional judgments of class teachers, with support from the Senior Leadership Team. We always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions. We are confident that this step will enable all children to achieve their potential as they take this next step in their learning.

Mixing a cohort as children transition from Early Years to Year 1 will:

- Create opportunities for the children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- Encourage greater social interaction between the children as they progress through the school.
- Ensure that each class remains balanced in response to pupil development.
- Promote a greater sense of community in a three-form entry school.

When making these decisions, the teachers identify the children's learning behaviours and consider each child's individual social and emotional needs. The staff know the children very well and have worked together to ensure that your child will be in a class with some of their friends. We recognise the importance of building new relationships and independence and the teachers take this into account when deciding which children will work best together. The class teachers also take into consideration a good balance of friendships and educational, social, and personal needs, as well as gender representation in each class.

The structure of Year 1 is very different to Reception, which is why we have planned in transition activities to support your child making new friendships and prepare for Key Stage 1.

These activities will take place over this half term and include:

- Playtimes on the Infant playground to support the children playing in a bigger space, with more children.
- Story time in the Year 1 classrooms with their new class.
- Story time in the Year 1 classrooms with their new teacher and new class.
- PSHE lessons which will specifically touch upon how to prepare for change and what to expect in the next year group.
- PSHE lessons which support the children in making new friendships.
- Specific activities planned where children are grouped in their new classes.
- Picnic with their new class and parents, ***date to be confirmed***.

Over the next half term, teachers will be meeting to discuss the class they will be receiving and will begin the handover process. This is a rigorous process as we recognise the importance of passing all necessary information to the new teacher to ensure the children have the right support in place.

Transition picnic

In order to support with the transition, we would like to invite Parents and Carers (and children) to attend a picnic, ***date to be confirmed***. The new class teacher will also attend and it will be a chance for parents to meet the teaching team, as well as meet new parents and children that will be in their class.

'Meet the Teacher' afternoon

'Meet the Teacher' afternoon will also take place, ***date to be confirmed***. During this afternoon, the children will be spending time in their new classroom with their new teacher. The children will take part in activities, which will support the teaching team and children to build positive relationships. This afternoon will support the children in feeling at ease when they return in September, as they will have already spent some time getting to know their teacher.

After half term, we will be finalising the staffing structure and you can expect to see a further letter regarding Meet the Teacher. This will also detail your child's new class name and teacher.

As always, we thank you for your support. If you do have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming changes, please do not hesitate to contact your child's current teacher in the first instance. A letter with more information about the picnic will be sent out separately.

Yours Sincerely

The Senior Leadership Team