

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in Reception and Year 1.

**Please read carefully**

As you know our admission number into Reception is 45, which means we are classed as a '1 ½ form' entry school. The number is fixed and based on our floor and classroom space. Over the last 10 years we have achieved our maximum number of 45 which has resulted in split age classes in school; there is currently a Year 2/3 and Year 4/5 split which have remained classes throughout school.

The plan for next year is to mix the children in Reception and Year 1 into three classes of 30. There will be a Year 1 class, a Year 1/2 and a Year 2. It is the governors policy to split the classes based on age meaning the youngest Year 1 children are in the Year 1 class, the oldest 15 Year 1 and youngest 15 Year 2 children are in the split class and the 30 oldest Year 2 are in the Year 2 class. In addition we are also mindful of gender and friendships and educational need where appropriate. Over the last few weeks the teachers in Reception and Year 1 have looked carefully at the lists. The children will find out their teachers when they visit next week.

Lockdown has caused some issues this year and nothing is 'normal.' In past years we have held 'drop in' sessions to answer questions and provide further explanations but obviously this year we have not been able to. We are always contactable and I am available in school every day at the moment. In addition if you have the technology and need further clarification, I will be available on Zoom this Wednesday at 5.30pm or Thursday at 9.30am. Please email school [sthughoflincoln.admin@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:sthughoflincoln.admin@trafford.gov.uk) if you require the code, stating which meeting you want to attend

Before then though I would like to reassure you that here at St Hugh's all the classes are closely monitored resulting in a successful education for all the children in school. All classes have varying needs of ability and we always teach to ability and not age, even in the straight classes. School based research has shown no differences in scores or progress in the split classes. Finally on a personal note, my son has been taught in split age classes here and I have no concerns whatsoever, it continues to work very well.

Yours sincerely

M Mountcastle