

Shirley Infant School

Wilton Road

Southampton

Hampshire

SO15 5LA



Headteacher

Mrs C Gregory, B.Ed Early Years

Deputy Headteacher

Laura Watts, B.A Hon Primary Education

14th May 2021

Dear Families

We have been working hard on our transition for the children in school, alongside our new starters too. We know the children have had another challenging year and we continue to be amazed by their resilience. We made the decision last year to not mix the classes due to the vast amount of time that the majority of children were not in school. Our children have had a different school year, however, their social skills and the virtual interaction we were able to give them in Lockdown has made a significant difference to their experience this time.

Taking everything into account, the team have made the decision that we **will** be mixing the classes up as part of our transition for September 2021.

"Transition is a normal part of everyday life and experienced by everyone throughout their lives. For the majority of children and their families, transitions are smooth and are seen as exciting challenges. Good transition experiences develop children who make strong attachments, can cope with and relish change and are excited by opportunities." ["All about transitions, EECU, 2011"](#)

Transition plans

The teachers are currently making decisions about the classes for next September. It is normally our practice, at Shirley Infant School to remix the class groups at the end of each year in order for children to meet new friends and work with different pupils they may not have had the opportunity to work with before. We do this so they know all of their peers in the year group and are more used to change.

We support the children through the different changes they experience in life next term. Our PSHE topic focusses on change and the children participate in a range of activities including circle times, stories and group discussions. The children across all year groups will participate in many different transition activities such as MOOT, stories with class teachers who will be in their year group, interviewing children from the year group above and many, many more.

Obviously we want to make this change a positive experience for the children so teachers plan carefully who will be placed together in each class to ensure a balance of gender, ability, who learns well with who and taking into account friendships.

Some parents feel that it would be helpful to us to know their views on friendship partnerships and we are happy to receive guidance from any parents who feel very strongly about this. We would ask that you put your thoughts in writing to us over the next two weeks and we will consider every comment.

Please note we will not consider verbal requests you must put it in writing and send into the office@shirleyschools.co.uk

Whilst not being able to guarantee that we will be able to accommodate parental wishes, where appropriate we will do our best.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Cate Gregory
Headteacher

Mrs Laura Watts
Deputy Headteacher.