

# TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Oak and Maple Class Re-organisation in January 2023**

When we return to school after the Christmas holidays, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, there will be 120 school days remaining of the academic year, up to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Following a review of children's learning since September and responding to recent changes to the school's curriculum, we plan to maximise the remaining learning time in Oak and Maple classes by creating two predominantly single-age classes.

In January 2023, the Year 1 children who are currently in Maple Class, will move across to Oak Class; and the majority of Year 2 children in Oak Class will move across the Maple Class. This will make Maple Class solely Y2 children and Oak Class predominantly Y1 children.

Mrs James will continue to teach in Maple Class and the children will be in a very strong position to make the best possible progress in the time remaining at the school. Following the disruptions that this cohort experienced due to COVID-19, we see this as a priority for the next 7 months. Research evidence highlights the impact that the pandemic had on these children with significant gaps identified Nationally.

Miss Comley will continue to teach in Oak Class, with teaching targeted at Year 1 level and we welcome the return of Mrs Nicola Gunthorpe, a qualified teacher, as a teaching assistant in Oak Class in January to strengthen the quality of provision in the class.

The decision to restructure the classes has been reached following meetings of the school's Senior Leadership Team and our Challenge and Support Partner, Jacqueline Laver. The Finance and Resources Committee of the school's Governing Board was also consulted last week and approval was given to make these changes.

We understand that any change to class structures within the year can be unsettling to both children and parents. However, we are confident that we can minimise the disruption the changes will cause and that we will quickly benefit from children being taught in single-age classes.

Next week we will give the children in Oak and Maple classes time together in their new groupings for January. We think this will help to ease the transition ahead.

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to play together at both morning playtime and lunchtime and they will also continue to learn Phonics in their discrete groups, matched closely to their reading level.

If you have any questions about this decision, I will be happy to listen and respond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Samios". The script is cursive and fluid.

George Samios  
Twerton Infant School & Nursery