



# OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

Wirehill Drive Lodge Park Redditch  
Worcestershire B98 7JU

Telephone: (01527) 528523

Fax: (01527) 510153

e-mail: [office@oakhill.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@oakhill.worcs.sch.uk)

website: [www.oakhillfirst.com](http://www.oakhillfirst.com)

Headteacher: Miss L Kelly - BEd (Hons)

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

In recent years, following consultation with our staff and governors it has been agreed that a review of the composition of classes at the end of Year 2 would be beneficial. The process has proved to be very effective. The Year 2 teaching team will be meeting soon to draft class lists. The criteria for this is quite sophisticated in order to achieve all of the aims of the rationale behind the organisation. A balance of abilities, gender and friendship groups will all need to be taken into account. Therefore, we will be asking pupils to state 4 friends who they work well with. ALL pupils will then be placed with at least one of those indicated. From further discussions with the children, adjustments may be made but it should be clearly understood that not all children can have all of their personal choices met. Please note there is no preference order to these choices.

We are aware that this may be a sensitive initiative and therefore ask you to spend some time talking to your child about the choices they will make and to involve them in the process so that they can be reassured.

We know from experience that mixing classes is common place, as it gives the children better social skills, and ensures that by the time they go onto middle school they know most of the children in their year. This gives them a broader experience of children with different personalities, backgrounds and cultures and helps them to learn how to relate to each other. We are also aware of the different skill levels that emerge from children throughout Reception and Key Stage 1 and we believe in mixing children of different abilities so that they can all encourage and learn from each other.

In our experience, relationships can often be formed on which one child is more dependent than the other, and this can hold both children back developmentally. In this case, separation is often the best solution with both children eventually performing better.

The workload implications for the administration of this will be significant for the staff especially in relation to pupil assessments. Despite this, we strongly believe that our pupils will greatly benefit from this experience.

Opportunities will be provided over the course of this half term for the children to work within this new setting. Should you wish to discuss the individual placement of your child please bring this to the attention of the class teacher.

We have discussed the importance of choices in school and the children have chosen their 4 friends below. Please take the opportunity to talk to your child and discuss the choices together as we would like to have your input into this process too. **Please return the slip below to school by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Yours sincerely

Miss L Kelly  
Headteacher

Mrs K Thomas  
KS1 Assistant Head

✂ -----

Childs name ..... Class .....

--	--	--	--

I have discussed and agreed these choices with my child.

Signed Parent/ Carer .....