



# OAK HILL FIRST SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss L Kelly - BEd (Hons)  
Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware from discussions at parent's evenings, this year we will be reviewing the composition of classes at the end of Reception ready for their transition to Year 1. The Reception teaching team will be meeting soon to draft class lists. A balance of abilities, gender and friendship groups will all need to be considered. Therefore, we will be asking parents and 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 their personal choices met.

We know from experience that mixing classes is common place, as it gives the children better social skills, and 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 we believe in mixing children of different abilities so that they can all encourage and learn from each other.

In our experience, relationships can be formed on which one child is more dependent than the other, and this can hold both children back developmentally. In this case, separation during learning sessions is often the best solution with both children eventually performing better. Children will still develop their friendships at breaks and lunchtimes.

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.

Pupils are already given some opportunity to mix with children from other classes within our free flow sessions but we will also be providing some additional sessions in their new grouping over the course of next half term.

To support your child we are asking you to spend some time talking to them about the choices you will make and to involve them in the process. Once you have discussed this, please indicate the names of the 4 friends you have selected on the form below. Should you wish to discuss the individual placement of your child please bring this to the attention of the class teacher.

**Please return the slip below to school by Friday 18th May 2018**

Yours sincerely

Miss L Kelly  
Headteacher

Mrs S Harris  
Foundation Stage Assistant Headteacher

Transition from Reception to Year 1

Child's name ..... Class .....

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I have discussed and agreed these choices with my child.

Signed Parent/ Carer .....