



Thursday 25 June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

NEW CLASSROOM ORGANISATION FROM SEPTEMBER

I am writing to let you know about a change that will be happening from September on the upper site.

Classrooms are on the move!

From September, the building which is currently used by Years 5 & 6 will become the Middle Phase Block. It will be used for the children in Years 2 & 3, led by Miss Verlander.

Years 4,5 & 6, the Upper Phase, will therefore be based in the Upper Building, led by Miss Bridge.

Those of you who have parents or even grandparents who came to Fairlands will remember that this is how the school was originally set up many years ago!

We are doing this for two main reasons:

- **to support transition from Year 1 to Year 2**

We have observed over the past few years that children have found it really hard making the 'jump' from the smaller setting of the Year 1 Block up to the large Upper Building. Some children with special needs have especially struggled. The layout of the classrooms in the new location is less spread out and is easier for little children to navigate.

In the same way, the outside play area is smaller and more self-contained

Direct access from the main entrance will help with drop off and collection times, and parents/carers in Years 2 & 3 will be able to collect directly from the classroom doors.

- **to align the deputy headteacher leadership 'phase' structure with the physical location of classes**

At the moment, the upper phase is split across two buildings and this is creating unnecessary challenges in communication within the phase.

It make sense to have the Middle Phase all together in one building, and the Upper Phase all together in another building.

We have made a couple of short videos for each phase, explaining where all the new classrooms are:

Middle Phase: Years 2 & 3 - <https://youtu.be/ZxU--9dzbg>

Upper Phase: Years 4, 5 & 6 - <https://youtu.be/bIXyToSGxPk>

We do know that children in Year 3 & 4 will therefore not now be having a classroom based in the current Year 5 & 6 block. We know as adults that all the classrooms are pretty much the same but some children might have been looking forward to moving over and there might be some feelings of disappointment. If you have a child in Years 3 & 4, please can you talk to them positively about this in advance and find out what their feelings are. **We would like you to tell them that it will all be fine and that there is a big job to do next year to set up the classrooms.** Remind them that they will be able to access a larger outside play space, including the MUGA and the football pitch. We definitely want their ideas about how to develop the outside play areas! We are already thinking about how to create an amazing wildlife area near the top playground but we want to hear their ideas about what else we can do... 😊

When we send out the **annual reports on Wednesday 8th July**, we will be sending out final confirmation of which class teacher your child has in September. We will also include lots of other information like our 'New to...' meeting slides in video form; Curriculum information booklets; Parent information booklets and other transition information.

Here's to a peaceful last few weeks of term, whether you are working at school or at home!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Staples', with a decorative flourish extending to the right.

Robert Staples
Headteacher