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Changes to the organisation of Y5/6 classes from January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know about changes to our Y5/6 classes when we return to school after the Christmas break. Every year our Y6's are taught in smaller classes from January and this is to ensure all pupils receive the thorough preparation they need for the move to secondary school and be successful in their SATS tests in May of next year.

The Y6s will be taught in two smaller classes of approximately 20 pupils during the mornings only until the May half-term break. Mr Chappell and Miss Farrar will teach the Y6 pupils during these morning lessons. In the afternoons, pupils will return to their usual class teacher.

Smaller class sizes have a proven impact on the progress of our pupils. As a result, we will also be making a similar change to our Y5 classes to give them additional support in their preparation for Y6. Our pupils in **Y5 will also be taught in smaller classes of approximately 20 pupils** during the mornings until the May half-term break. Mr Walker will continue with one of our Y5 classes and the other Y5 group will be taught by Mrs Eastburn (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays) and Miss Lockwood (Wednesdays and Thursdays). This will mean that the Y5 children from Y5/6EF will no longer be taught by Miss Farrar. However, Miss Lockwood is an experienced and talented teacher with many years teaching experience.

In addition to this, we will be asking all of our **Y5 and Y6 pupils to come into school for an 8:40am start**. The end of the school day will remain the same.

Staff will be allocated to and remain with a year group as much as possible. There will still be separate lunchtimes and playtimes. When staff are working across a year group they are required to pay more attention to social distancing. There are also seating plans for each class so that it may not be necessary to send home an entire year group if there is a positive case of Covid-19.

These small changes follow government guidance and comply with the Local Authority risk assessment. We remain cautious but have to ensure we are providing children with their full entitlement to high quality teaching and learning.

Yours sincerely,

Head teacher

