



QUEEN BOUDICA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher - Ms Clare Woodward

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Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for the many positive responses to the information shared last week regarding class 'shuffling.' In view of the fact that there have been some common questions asked, we would like to take the opportunity to clarify certain points and hopefully, answer some of your queries.

Firstly, please accept my sincere apology that you had not received the information prior to children hearing about it during assembly. We always do our utmost to get our newsletter out as early as possible, but were unable to do so before school finished on Friday on this occasion. We appreciate that some families feel that this would have been helpful, and can only apologise most genuinely for this. In hindsight, we recognise that sending a separate letter in advance of the newsletter would have been helpful.

Due to a school's continually changing intake, many primary schools reshuffle class groupings on an annual basis as a matter of routine practice. Some schools choose to do it at the end of certain year groups, so that classes can be adjusted throughout the children's time at school to best meet the needs of all pupils. Queen Boudica has never needed to do this until this year, as this is the first year that it has been working at full capacity. I would most definitely not wish to start a system whereby classes are reshuffled annually, but know from experience that there are occasions whereby regrouping does need to occur.

As new pupils have been continually admitted, they have had to be allocated to whichever class had a space, which is not necessarily the one best matched to their needs. Now that we are full, it is evident that imbalances have arisen across the school that need to be addressed in order to ensure that pupils' needs can be met as fully as possible. The leadership team and whole teaching staff have discussed each year group in turn and given careful consideration to whether or not to shuffle cohorts.

Please can I reassure you that all adults working in school are very aware of each child's particular needs and friendship groups. There will be lengthy and sensitive discussions taking place in order to ensure that we listen to the children's requests whilst simultaneously balancing the make-up of each class. We are also aware that new pupils to school, and those in Reception, will have started to form new friendships, and we will do our utmost to ensure that these continue to flourish.

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be facilitating a range of activities across the whole year group to ensure that the new groupings work effectively. After further discussion and meetings, groups will be finalised so that pupils are ready to spend a morning with their new teacher, in their new class groupings before the summer holiday. I will let you know the full transition dates when they are confirmed.

I have complete confidence in the professional skill, compassion and empathy of all staff at Queen Boudica, and know that they are totally committed to ensuring that the needs of all pupils, both academic and pastoral, are fully met. I am confident that pupils will be happy in their classes in September, and, should teachers have any queries during the process, they will of course discuss these with you prior to finalising the groups.

I can only apologise once again for the communication system last Friday, and I look forward to seeing you at the various events to celebrate the end of the academic year.

With kind regards,

Headteacher