



# Five Ways Primary School

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13th July 2020

Dear Year 2 Parents,

## School Rationale for Organisation of Year 3 Classes 2020 – 2021

Today, you will have received notification of your child's new classteacher ready for September 2020, when they will move to Year 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> September. I am sure you will agree that this year, all pupils have been impacted by the circumstances surrounding Covid-19, and the amount of time away from 'normal' lessons and school since lockdown began at the end of March.

You will be aware that usually, classes in Year 3 at the start of Key Stage 2, are organised into 3 streamed classes based on attainment. This year, after much consideration, the Governors and Senior Leadership Team at Five Ways have made the decision to keep classes as they are and leave children in the 3 mixed attainment classes just like Year 2.

We have discussed at length the way in which classes in Year 3 should be organised and made our decision based on the fact that we wanted to support your child both pastorally and academically. We believe that leaving classes as they are, will enable pupils to begin Year 3 with some sense of familiarity because your child will remain in their class with their friends. It was felt that placing children in 'new' streamed classes with different children at the same time as having to come to terms with returning to school after 5 months, and having to move to a different building with a new teacher, would have a detrimental impact upon your child's well-being and would not be appropriate this year.

We appreciate that children are unique individuals who develop at different rates and though the gap in attainment of children is wide by the end of year 2, I would like to reassure you that your child's academic needs will still be met by effective differentiation in mixed attainment classes in Year 3 during the coming year. To enable teachers to accommodate the differing needs within each mixed attainment Year 3 class, an additional adult will be assigned to each class to provide further support as required. The Year 3 teachers and support staff, will be committed to ensuring your child is adequately supported and challenged to reach the End of Year 3 expectations by summer 2021 through high quality teaching and learning. By adopting this method of organisation for your Year 3 child this year, teachers will be able to meet the pastoral and academic needs of all children through planning challenging work at their level and supporting them pastorally.

Approximately midway through next year, when children are settled in Year 3, teachers will introduce a level of 'setting' when teaching maths. This will allow your child to be placed in a class for their maths lessons that will be matched to their attainment level in this subject. You



will be informed of these grouping before this method of organisation is introduced. Setting during the spring term will enable children to start getting prepared for moving to streamed classes at the start of Year 4.

I hope that my explanation of our decision to organise the Year 3 classes in the way outlined above, helps to reassure you that Governors and the Senior Leadership Team at Five Ways support my viewpoint on this matter, and that pupils at Five Ways attain very highly regardless of the organisation of classes they are placed in.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the class organisation for Year 3 children in September, then please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office. Your child's current classteacher, Miss Wright as Year 2 Leader, or a member of my Senior Leadership Team and I will be willing to speak to you and will endeavour to reassure you regarding decisions that have been made in the best interests of your child and the circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander  
Headteacher

