

Thursday, 15th December 2016

Dear Parents & Carers

Year 3 Class Amalgamation January 2017

As many of you realise the current Year 3 classes of Potter and Kipling are operating with very small numbers. I have let the classes remain this size as long as I can to ensure that the children can take full advantage of the high ratio of teacher to children for the benefit of teaching and learning for as long as possible. Unfortunately numbers in one particular class will be falling further at the end of term.

Having spoken with the Year 3 teachers they are keen to amalgamate the two classes to make one class a 'normal' size. Over the past weeks the teachers have been working more frequently together with classes joined. All the Year 3 class teachers report that the classes have worked well together and that the children have responded very well to being in the same class. Indeed the class teacher and pupils have relished having more children to stimulate conversation and learning.

Based upon the falling number and the positive feedback from the Year 3 teachers, I have decided to amalgamate the two classes for the start of the Spring Term. This does mean that there will be one Year 3 class, Kipling/Potter, in January 2017 which will be taken by Mrs Michelle Wong and Mrs Katharine Haines.

This does **not** mean we will be losing Mrs Moss. Mrs Moss has volunteered to cover Mrs Johnston's maternity leave from January to May. I would like to formally thank Mrs Moss for undertaking this role as this means not only do we keep her at Harpenden Academy but Mrs Wong and Mrs Haines and the children will see her and be able to use her knowledge moving forward. In addition the children in Year 1 will have a known teacher who will be aware of the standards to be achieved and the levels of expectation.

Once Mrs Johnston returns in May, Mrs Moss will go back into Year 3 to work with the children and class teachers once again. The class however, will not separate again and it will remain as one class.

I appreciate this is an unwanted disruption for children and parents and one which I had truly hoped to avoid, but I am confident and happy that the Year 3 teachers will do a wonderful job with the children and that the class will benefit from having more children to work with and share ideas.

I have written to both Year 3 and Year 1 parents first out of courtesy before making this information available to all parents via The Voice on Friday.

Many thanks

Mrs Davies
Head teacher