



Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

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Tuesday 6th July 2023

Transition 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

This year has flown by and it is hard to believe that we are in the final half term of the academic year. At this time of the school year we start the process of saying goodbye to our lovely year 6 and welcome the new intake of Reception and Nursery to start their journey at Gooderstone. As you may know we are keen to grow our numbers to take us to four class in the future, we start this venture by adding Goslings nursery. This has been very successful and our nursery numbers have continued to grow throughout the year, this in turn means we have 11 Reception children starting in the new academic year. Growing the school from the bottom up is not without its challenges and has meant we have had to look at class structures in more creative ways, especially as further up the school we currently only have 3 Year 1 pupils and 3 Year 4 pupils.

If we stick to our current structure for the new academic year the numbers across the school will look like this:

- **Owls: 22 and growing (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)**
- **Skylarks: 15 (Year 2, 3 & 4)**
- **Kestrels: 12 Year 5 & 6)**

Having a larger number of children in Owls means that we are less likely to be able to take more nursery children throughout the school year, stunting our growth. We are therefore proposing a more even spread to our class numbers which helps take into account the very small year groups mentioned above:

- **Owls: 16 (Nursery & Reception) Mrs Cross, Mrs Chisman, Miss Wilson & Mrs Stanbridge.**
- **Skylarks: 15 (Year 1, 2 & 3) Mrs Buckley, Mrs Groom & Mrs Sayers.**
- **Kestrels: 17 (Year 4, 5 & 6) Miss Stanley, Mrs Patrick & Mrs Sayers.**

Every class has full time support most days apart from one or two afternoon sessions. This is very much a rarity in the current educational climate. We are lucky to have an amazing support staff that are all very experienced working in different year groups.

I know that some of you may have concerns about the mixed year groups but the staff at Gooderstone have worked with a variety of mixed year group classes over the years and are very experienced and talented at planning an enriched and suitable curriculum for any mix. This structure allows growth from the bottom up, help in securing the school's future and move towards our goal of four classes:

- **Class One: Nursery & Reception**
- **Class Two: Year 1 & Year 2**
- **Class Three: Year 3 & Year 4**
- **Class Four: Year 5 & Year 6**

Our transition will run the same this academic year as in previous years, with the whole school moving to their new classes on Monday 10th July. This move up allows children to get to know their new teachers and classrooms before the 6 weeks' summer holiday. It works well to alleviate the anxiousness around new beginnings because children have seen their tray, know where their peg is and know who they are sitting and where they are sitting. These things may seem small to us as adults but they are on every child's mind when starting a new school year. A separate letter has been sent to our new Reception and Nursery children with details of transition.

We are keen for our year 6 pupils to have a fantastic last two weeks when they are not on their own transition days. Mrs Rudd will be coming in one day to teach them first aid and life-saving skills. We are also looking to line up a woodland workshop and a potential visit from the fire service. Miss Stanley has asked if any parents would like to volunteer to run an activity/workshop for the children to have experiences outside of the normal curriculum to please contact her.

As ever we thank you for your ongoing support,

Best Wishes,



Mrs Godbold.