



Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 2 arrangements - January 2024

I am writing to inform you with the news that Mr Hooper is leaving us at the end of the current term.

Mr Hooper has been a member of the teaching team at St Nicholas for the last three and a half years. During that time, he has taught in years 6, 5 and 2 and been responsible for leading geography and more recently mathematics across our school with great enthusiasm.

Mr Hooper will be greatly missed by us all here at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy and we wish him every success in the future, as he moves out of teaching.

Unfortunately, we have not, in such a short space of time, been able to recruit a teacher of sufficient quality who we would be prepared to employ. After some careful consideration, the governing body and I have decided to restructure our Year 2 classes back into two classes, to ensure we maintain the quality of your child's education.

I realise that this will be disappointing for our parents but given the circumstances, there are no other options available to us at the present time. All other staffing within the year group will remain unchanged. The Year 2 team, Miss Kay, Mrs Dunton and Miss McHaffie will continue to take charge of the teaching; with Mrs Newman, Miss Carswell and Miss Howes all supporting the teaching team, as they do at present.

Part of bringing the three classes together, will require us to make sure we balance the needs of the pupils in all three classes. To do this, I believe we should look at how we reintegrate the pupils into two classes in the same way we would have done in the summer term. I do not believe it to be appropriate to just split one class between the other two, or to put the classes back together as they were in Year 1.

I understand the anxieties which may occur surrounding friendship groupings and the concerns of not being able to see other friends and this will be one of our considerations going forward. We will look to support the children by having the opportunity to spend time with their new class setting, alongside an effective plan of transition before we break up for the Christmas holiday.

To be able to reassure our families with the decisions made, I would like to offer Year 2 families an opportunity to meet with me on **Tuesday 5th December at 5.00pm** so I



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can answer any questions and address any concerns you may have in more detail. I would be most grateful if children are not brought to this meeting.

Finally, as with all change, I realise that this can be the cause of anxiety for you and your child however, I would like to reassure parents that **all** the staff at St Nicholas, place the welfare and care of the children as their highest priority and this has been at the forefront of our minds when considering these changes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Dale', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher Dale
Headteacher