

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**



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Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Planning for 2018-2019 Academic Year**

The school is at that stage of the year when plans are being made for the new academic year starting in September 2018. I am sure you are well aware of the fact that schools are under great pressure from the government to cut costs. Almost all schools in the country are facing a period of uncertainty, and in many cases are having to make staff redundant.

At St Joseph's, we are in the fortunate position of being able to plan for next year without having to make teaching staff redundant. We do, however, have to make changes to our class structure to accommodate the fact that schools are funded on the basis of thirty pupils per teacher.

Some of our staff have chosen to move to new jobs at the end of the school year. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs. Stephens, Miss Hawkings and Miss Lintern at the end of the Summer Term. They have all been good servants of our school and played their part in helping the school to improve so markedly in the past two years.

In the Spring, the school was given its budget for the next academic year by the Academy Trust to which we are answerable, CAST Plymouth Diocese. CAST made very clear from the outset, that setting a deficit budget was not acceptable and non-negotiable. There is the expectation that all schools have to live within their means. The governors have looked at every possible way of balancing the budget and the only way it can be achieved is to make changes to the staffing structure of the school.

In September, the school will reduce to five classes instead of six. This will enable the school to set a balanced budget. This is nothing new for the school; we already have mixed classes in Key Stage 2, as most local schools do, and we are confident that your children will continue to make the good progress they have achieved in the current year regardless of having mixed aged classes in Reception, Key Stage 1 and 2. We are positive about the changes for September and remain committed to the education and well-being of all our pupils.

The details of the new class organisation and the governors' policy for decisions relating to the organisation of classes is not yet decided and will be shared with parents in the next half term. The good news is that our children will continue to be taught by excellent staff who know them well, and who have contributed to the significant improvements in pupil progress during the current year.

If you require further clarification at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Tim van Kroonenburg  
Chair of Governors  
On behalf of the Local Governing Board