



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

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7 July 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am emailing to provide you with some further updates as we near the end of the school year.

Classes September 2022

As previously informed, we will continue to have a mixed YR and Y1 class and a mixed Y1 and Y2 class in September. Parents of children who will be in Year 1 in September will be emailed separately today to be notified about the class their child will be in next year. Years 3 – 6 will all be taught in separate year groups from September due to numbers for these groups being much more similar than last year.

We will be using new class names for next year. New names are needed because there will be groups coming together for the first time / again so we must establish fresh identities for them. We have decided to go with woodland creatures to fit in with our plans to establish a forest school next year and our hope to gain more outside space in school.

The table below shows the teachers, teaching assistants, new class names and classrooms for September.

Year Groups	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Class Name Sept 2022	Classroom
YR / Y1	Mrs Bevan	Mrs Gardiner	Hedgehogs	Current Puffins
Y1 / Y2	Miss Dockerty	Mrs Venn	Squirrels	Current Kingfishers
Y3	Miss Dennett	Mrs Lynam	Rabbits	Current Falcons
Y4	Mr Nicolaides	Mrs Lynam	Badgers	Current Robins
Y5	Mr Davis & Mr Venn	Mrs Hackeson	Otters	Current Hawks
Y6	Mrs Nicholson	Mrs Hackeson	Foxes	Current Eagles



On Monday 11th July we will be having our transition morning. This is where the children will spend time with their teachers for September in the rooms they will be working in. We are really pleased that our new teachers will be joining us for the day on Monday to be part of this. They will be with us in the playground in the morning and at the end of the day too so please do introduce yourselves. Unfortunately Mr Nicolaides is unable to be with us on Monday but as he is already working in the school we have organised transition for his class to take place on Wednesday 13th July. Current teachers will be meeting with the children's teachers for September to ensure key information is handed over.

From September, Mr Davis will be taking on the role of SENCo. He and Miss Rose have already started the handover process and I know that he will continue the excellent job that Miss Rose has done.

Buildings & Academisation Update

You may remember that I wrote a letter in May explaining that we are waiting for North Somerset to resolve the issues with the buildings that are currently fenced off on our site. As a local authority school, any large scale building work on site is North Somerset's responsibility. School leaders have been talking to the council for several years about the increasingly poor state of the buildings at the front of the school.

Governors, Mr Davis and I have been meeting every three weeks with representatives from the local authority and ELAN (the multi academy trust we are in the process of joining) to pursue a solution. This process has been extremely frustrating. Although North Somerset have now agreed that work needs to be undertaken, we have not resolved this situation nearly a year after the buildings were closed down. We totally understand that our families are not happy with the current state of affairs either and have made our feelings very clear to North Somerset. The Director of Children's Services and local councillors have all visited the site, following our invitation, to see the condition that the local authority continues to leave our school in.

Following our most recent meeting on Tuesday, I can now confirm that the plan for the fenced off building at the front of the school (old hall, kitchen, staffroom & learning mentor room) is demolition. The building was identified last year as beyond repair and we have been pushing for it to be taken down ever since. We were really hoping that this would be done over the summer holidays for obvious reasons but learnt on Tuesday that despite requests from the school, the necessary permissions have only just been submitted by North Somerset. This means that having the building removed over the summer is now unlikely. We are beyond frustrated at the unnecessary delay in removing this building.

In addition, the plan for the garage at the top of the drive, which is also fenced off, is for it to be removed.

Once the building at the front is taken down, the old frontage of the main school building will be refreshed and rebuilt in keeping with the rest of the school. The land we will have gained following demolition will be fenced in and made into space we can use with the children. We know that once these works have been completed we will have a school that looks lovely!

There are plans for parts of the sports hall building to be remodelled to accommodate the spaces we will have lost. North Somerset are finally in the process of getting costs for the work, but as a consequence of previous delays, this will still take several weeks.

All of the factors described above are causing the delay to our academisation. Elan are ready (and have been for months) to welcome us into their multi academy trust but they can only take us once North Somerset confirm that they will pay the building costs. This has been the ongoing conversation between the local authority, Elan and the school for the past year and a half.



We are very sorry that our school has not been maintained the way it should have been by North Somerset and that despite our best efforts the situation remains unresolved. Please be assured that we will continue to fight to get a satisfactory resolution for the school as soon as we possibly can. I am more than happy to pass any correspondence from parents to the local authority regarding the ongoing situation.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Claire

