



WE ARE "GOOD"

- ✓ ACHIEVEMENT OF PUPILS
- ✓ BEHAVIOUR AND SAFETY OF PUPILS
- ✓ QUALITY OF TEACHING
- ✓ LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT



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'Dream, believe, achieve together'

10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers with a child in EYFS and Year 1,

### **Year 1 and Year 2 - Classes for the next Academic Year 2021/22**

We are extremely pleased to have welcomed back all pupils since 8<sup>th</sup> March and would once again like to thank parents/carers for their continued support with remote learning during, hopefully the last, lockdown.

Now that the children have settled back into their routines, the school leaders at Round Hill have been making plans for 2021/22. This letter explains how we intend to use the additional Government funding, which is approximately £30,000, and the changes we are making to best support our youngest children.

What has been locally and nationally recognised is that socially and emotionally, the children who have been hardest hit by the pandemic are our very youngest children in both EYFS and Year 1.

As a result, from September 2021, we will be using the additional Government funding to part fund an extra teacher in Years 1 and 2 for one year. Replacing the current mixed aged set up in Key Stage 1 (KS1), there will be 3x Year 1 single aged classes and 3x Year 2 single aged classes. We believe there are a number of benefits to this including reducing class sizes to give us an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the pupil's social, emotional and academic needs as a result of the pandemic. It should be noted that further government funding is unlikely to be available, therefore it is likely we will return to mixed aged classes in KS1 in the future. We will of course be constantly evaluating the impact and benefits as part of our school improvement work.

### **What support is being given to the rest of school?**

All children have been affected by the consequences of this pandemic and now that all pupils have been back for some time, staff have had a further opportunity to evaluate plans and adapt them so children can make the most of the remaining time until the end of the summer term. In addition, recovery sessions are taking place in school for some children that need it the most. Some children in Year 6 may be offered support in the summer from local secondary schools.

We are using the summer term to boost confidence and establish routines once again and as you would expect we are promoting wellbeing through play as we know this goes a long way to boost academic outcomes.

We are modifying our curriculum to provide all children opportunities to recover and allow those children who need it most to receive additional support.

Overall, we are incredibly pleased that, through parental support and the teachers' commitment to remote learning that the vast majority of children at Round Hill have achieved well academically. Hopefully, by reading my previous communications, you will agree the need to be positive with children, so the message is clear - children have not fallen behind, this is just part of the natural lifelong learning journey. Our children can adapt and they will recover given the encouragement to do their best.

I would welcome your thoughts as always at the next Parents' Forum, or via email to the above address.

Yours faithfully,

*Adrian Nash*

Adrian Nash  
Head teacher

"A good school...where all groups of pupils make good progress... and some make outstanding progress"

