



MUGGINTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Weston Underwood, Ashbourne  
Derbyshire DE6 4PL  
Telephone: 01335 360261  
[www.muggintonschool.co.uk](http://www.muggintonschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mr J Green

12 September 2018

### **Literacy and Mathematics Teaching at Mugginton**

We are delighted with the start the children have made to the new term. Staff are extremely positive about the classroom environments and I am very excited about the year ahead. Mr Clarke in particular deserves great credit for his hard work and the start he has made – he is being mentored superbly by Mrs Wallen and is already proving a real asset to our school.

I am sure parents are aware of our increase in pupil numbers to 54 children. This clear example of our outstanding reputation and success is a testament to the hard work, talent and commitment of our staff and the warm, welcoming atmosphere and ethos the children have created. We should all be extremely proud of our school.

At present, the Junior class has 36 children and the Infant class, with two teachers, has 18. Whilst the high Junior number is not at all rare, (and our Juniors benefit from having Mrs Sweeney, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, full time) we believe we can help our pupils to accelerate their academic progress further by adjusting the way we organise the daily Literacy and Mathematics lesson. I know this will not come as a great surprise because it has been discussed at length in Governor meetings and at our end-of-term Vision Exercise sessions, as well as in conversations with me at the beginning and end of school.

The children will split into three groups for Mathematics and Literacy. This split, carefully planned for by all staff, is based broadly on age-related factors and allows for a small and well-supported middle group of approximately 14 children. This group will be supported by two adults at all times (a ratio of 1 adult to 7 pupils!) and I expect significant progress as a result. This middle group will work mainly in the Infant classroom, purely due to space, and will cover the statutory National Curriculum objectives in exactly the same way as the larger group working in the Junior class. Mrs Jones and I will teach this middle group every Wednesday morning and I am excited to arrange a system which offers the children a more individual, pupil-centred learning experience, which I believe is essential for academic success.

The children's emotional well-being is at the heart of every decision we make. We emphasise very strongly that the group arrangements do not reflect a child's 'fixed' academic ability; rather, we are using our knowledge of our children to arrange the learning environment and staff timetables to continue to achieve outstanding outcomes for our pupils.

Mrs Wallen and Mr Clarke have set their Parents' Information Evening for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of September. I would like to offer parents of children across the school the opportunity to come to this meeting and discuss the Literacy and Mathematics arrangements with me, if you would like to do so.

Many thanks

Mr Green