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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kirsty Evans

Subject: Pillowell School Class Structure for September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of another academic year, I wanted to share some important updates regarding our class structure for September 2024.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support during my first year as the Executive Headteacher across our Federation. It has been a challenging yet rewarding journey, and I am deeply appreciative of the dedication and commitment shown by our incredible team of staff, who truly have the children's best interests at heart.

Education has undergone significant changes over the years, and the expectations placed upon both children and staff have never been higher. Unfortunately, due to situations outside of our control, we have fallen behind in adapting to these changes, which has necessitated a substantial amount of work to realign our practises. Despite these challenges, I cannot commend our staff enough for their tireless efforts to drive positive change.

However, there are certain inherited circumstances that have had a more profound impact on our schools than I would have liked. When I assumed this role, the school's finances were not as I had expected or hoped, leaving us in a precarious financial situation. Consequently, the local authority, governors, senior leadership team, and I have had to carefully re-evaluate the education we offer and ensure that we uphold our values statement: "Be the best you can be."

Rest assured that throughout this process, my constant focus has been on the children, and I remain committed to providing quality first teaching in the classrooms, ongoing professional development for all staff to meet the needs of every child, and continuous review and monitoring in conjunction with the local authority, governors, and parents. Your feedback is invaluable to me.

Based on our pupil admission number of 12, we can accommodate 84 children in the school, which comes with a certain level of funding. While we have been fortunate to have had four classes for several years, this is no longer financially sustainable given our current circumstances. Therefore, from September, we will be reducing to three classes. Please find the new class structure below:

Reception/ Year 1	Year 2,3,4	Y4,5,6
Mrs Natasha Hughes	Mrs Sarah Matthews and Mrs Nicki Allen	Mr Forster



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At Blakeney and Pillowell, we have been privileged to have employed an experienced dyslexia teacher, Mrs. Phillips. We are incredibly grateful for the amazing support she has provided to our children over the years. However, we have had to review our SEND provision alongside our financial situation to ensure that we meet the needs of all children while also considering what represents the best value for money. Miss Roberts is working diligently on a programme of work for all children with additional needs, and we are fortunate to have talented and experienced teaching assistants within our Federation who will be supporting our children.

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of some staff members who will be leaving us to pursue new endeavours. We wish them the very best of luck in their future adventures. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Miss Watkins and Mr Shipsides the very best of luck in their new roles.

Miss Haagen and Mrs Jusic, are not leaving us completely. They will still be working within the Federation. They will be putting their amazing teaching skills to use at Blakeney and Walmore Hill. I'm sure you will continue to see them from time to time when they attend Federation meetings.

I understand that these changes may raise concerns or questions, and I would like to offer you the opportunity to address them. Therefore, I will be holding a meeting on **Thursday 4th July**, to discuss the situation in greater detail. There will be a separate meeting time for Year 4 parents, as we would like to explain the decision to split this year group and answer any questions you may have.

Thursday 4th July
Y4 parents: 5pm
All other parents 5.30pm

I kindly request that you refrain from voicing your opinions or concerns to individual members of staff via Class Dojo or email, as this can place unnecessary pressure on them during an already busy time of year. Any communication should be directed to myself or the governing board.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we navigate these changes together. Our primary goal remains providing the best possible education for our children while ensuring the long-term sustainability of our schools.

Warm regards,

K Evans

Kirsty Evans

Executive Headteacher