



14th April 2020

Somerford Primary School

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Dear Parents

Changes to School's Pupil Admission Number

It feels very strange writing this letter to you at such a difficult time, however, I want to keep you fully informed about changes that will be happening to our school over the next year.

As you will be aware, due to a drop in the birth rate coupled with a new school opening in Christchurch, Somerford Primary has seen a reduction in the number of pupils joining us over the last two years. This has resulted in us only having one class in Year R and Year 1 this year. We had hoped pupil numbers would increase but projections from BCP suggest this will continue for at least five years and possibly longer.

Moving from a two form entry school to a one form entry school has significant financial implications and we have been working with BCP to see what support they could offer. As a result, BCP have made a proposal to the Governors which will support our natural reduction in numbers allowing us to remain financially viable, whilst supporting BCP's need for additional special school places in this area.

BCP are proposing that the school site will be split in half and they will use half of the school to open a new special school for primary age pupils. The other half will remain as Somerford Primary School. The new school will not be part of Somerford Primary and will be completely separate. BCP have not yet named the provider who will be taking on this new school.

This reduction to a one form entry school will continue to happen gradually. No children currently in two form entry year groups will be moved.

BCP's proposal will be taken to the Cabinet later this month to seek their approval. If agreed, we will start working with the Local Authority to consider how this change will be made without disruption to our current pupils.

I am sure you have many questions – we all do – and I promise to keep you informed and hopefully answer many of these as we move forward. I do want to reassure you though that BCP and the school's Governors continue to be fully committed to making Somerford Primary School these best community school we can be; we'll just be smaller.

Please contact the school office via email if you have any immediate questions or concerns and I will do my best to answer them.

Best wishes

Helen Frampton

Headteacher

Enjoy

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