



Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Changes to the Year 6 timetable from November 2018**

As part of our work to ensure children have a successful transition into Year 7 once they leave St Mary's, I visit a sample of pupils in their new schools just before the October half-term break to find out how effective we were in preparing them for this big change in their lives.

Some common messages emerge from this exercise every year, one of these is that children have felt it would have been useful to have had the opportunity to work with children who they did not know very well as this is something that becomes a reality for them in the early part of Year 7. Children have said that it would have helped them as they established new friendships and adapted to different routines. Historically, we have had only one class in Year 6 so this idea has always been very difficult to develop but the presence of two classes now makes this a real possibility and it is something we would very much like to try over the coming months.

From this week, the classes will be mixed on Wednesday afternoons and will have two different sessions, these will be taught by Miss Daykin-Pont (who will teach RE) and Mr Jenkins (who will teach team-building skills including sessions in our Forest School area).

There are three main aims:

-The children will not only get the chance to work with others who they may not know well, but will do so in useful contexts. RE includes aspects of citizenship, tolerance and the development of strong personal values while team-building will enable children to solve problems, listen to others and work with them to test out ideas.

-The programme will provide a bridge between the initial work around transition that has already taken place this year and the transition programme that we run for all Year 6 pupils in the summer term. The latter is delivered by our pupil mentor, Wendy Sartain, and has been spoken of very highly by the Year 6 pupils who have left us recently.

-The children will develop their ability to build relationships with different adults and understand different approaches and expectations as they currently do for English and Maths.

We think this has great potential in developing the confidence and personal attributes of the pupils as they approach the closure of one phase of their education and the beginning of another. Previous Year 6 pupils have settled very quickly to life in secondary education but we now have the opportunity to make that process even better having listened to the experiences and thoughts of those who have left in recent years. We now have the chance to act on this feedback and hope you are able to support us in this new and exciting initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith  
Headteacher



READING  
CONNECTS

