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Headteacher: Miss Melanie Scull

Tuesday, 17th June 2025

Subject: Important Update on Class Structure Changes at Chase Side Primary

Dear Families,

You may be aware that the number of babies being born in London has been steadily decreasing. According to figures from the Office for National Statistics, 106,696 babies were born in the capital in 2022 — a 20.4% decrease compared to a decade ago and the lowest number since 2008.

In addition, we've seen changes in the local community, including a number of families in Local Authority temporary accommodation being relocated outside of Enfield, and others choosing to move due to the flexibility of working from home.

As a result of these wider trends, there are now more school places in Enfield than there are children to fill them.

At Chase Side, we've also been experiencing a gradual decline in the number of children entering our Nursery and Reception classes. These smaller cohorts are now moving through the school. While our staffing is currently designed for two classes of 30 children in each year group, this model is no longer sustainable given the reduced intake. This impacts our school budget and how we can allocate resources effectively for the benefit of all our children.

After careful consideration, and in consultation with our Governing Body, we've had to make some important decisions about the future structure of our classes. Although we don't currently have enough children to maintain a full two-form entry, we also have too many children to move to a one-form entry model — a step that some other schools in Enfield are having to take. Instead, we will be transitioning to a hybrid class structure, beginning this September.

What's Changing?

Starting in the new academic year, we will be reorganising our smallest year groups — initially focusing on only Year 1 and Year 2 (the current Reception and Year 1 classes). These changes involve grouping children by age to create more balanced classes.

Current Arrangement	New Arrangement
Year 1 (mixed age)	Year 1 (Youngest Year 1)
Year 1 (mixed age)	Year 1 / 2 (Oldest Year 1 / Youngest Year 2)
Year 2 (mixed age)	Year 2 (Oldest Year 2)
Year 2 (mixed age)	-

This approach narrows the age range in each class, which can reduce the gap in developmental stages. It allows for more cohesive group learning, helps children feel more confident among peers at a similar stage, and supports both social and academic development.

As children move through the school, they will alternate between same-age and mixed-age classes. Our rich and balanced curriculum will remain the same in the single-age classes, and we are developing an engaging new curriculum for the mixed-age classes. This new curriculum will ensure coverage of all key learning objectives, with fresh texts and themes to prevent any repetition.

As we develop the new curriculum, we will be working closely with our experienced Year 1 and Year 2 teaching staff to ensure that children in Year 2 continue to be appropriately challenged and supported in meeting age-related expectations. We are also taking into careful consideration the children's social development and existing friendship groups. With this in mind, each year group will continue to enjoy playtime and lunchtime with peers from their current classes.

Moving Forward Together

We understand that change can be challenging, and this decision has not been made lightly. Our priority, as always, is to provide the best possible learning experience for every child. We are confident that this new structure will support both their educational and emotional development.

We appreciate the continued support of our Chase Side families as we make this transition. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the changes further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Stronger Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Scull', written in a cursive style.

Melanie Scull
Headteacher