

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to provide you an aide-memoire to the slides that were presented as part of the Class Structure Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, primarily in the event you were unable to attend but also to provide a summary for you to take away. While this will not cover, to the same depth, the discussions at the meeting we hope that it will be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the governors via the school office should you have any questions or need any clarification.

Currently we are projected to have 155 pupils on roll in September 2017 including two smaller than usual classes who will be year 4 and year 6 in academic year 17/18. It is not unusual to have one smaller class at Woodborough as we are affected by low birth rates, but two such classes which are also close to each other presents us with a challenge.

Our funding comes from Wiltshire Council on a per pupil basis. All schools complete a census on the first Thursday in October for the number of pupils on register. The Number on Role (NOR) is then fixed and is used to delineate our funding for the following year. For example, if we have a number of pupils leave after the census is taken, we still retain the funding and vice versa if pupils join after the census. So the 155 projection for pupils on roll in September 2017 will have a significant impact on our funding in 2018.

We have considered a number of options to minimise the effect of this impacted funding:

1. To remain as we are in class and staffing structure - In short if we take no action we will have an in year shortfall of £42,175 and an end of year bottom line deficit of £16,675 which would leave Woodborough in an unacceptable debt position. This would also be very difficult within the Multi-Academy Trust as we move to conversion.
2. That we constrict to 5 large classes with mixed classes across the whole school. This would not allow us to easily flex back to more classes if the roll should increase, as is our aspiration and projection.

We have therefore decided that there will be 6 classes across the school from September 2017. Key stage 2 (years 4, 5 and 6) will comprise two mixed classes with 27 pupils in each; one class comprising year 4 and younger year 5's and the other comprising year 6 and older year 5's.

We believe this is the most viable approach to ensure the best teaching and school experience for our pupils. This also means Woodborough is best positioned financially, and is strategically ready for our intended regrowth.

We are lucky that we can achieve significant financial saving next academic year without any reduction in teaching staff as Mrs Blacker and Mrs Crichard will be teaching reduced hours. We also will have less teaching assistant hours.

We would like to reassure you that we have a great teaching staff at Woodborough. Mrs Ashby and Mrs Wren, who will be teaching our mixed years 4, 5 and 6, are both very experienced at teaching in this environment. We are confident that all pupils will continue to thrive at Woodborough and that we will be able to offer the richness of education that we always have.

Our 2018 NOR is projected to be 168 – resulting from our 2017-18 Year 6 (13 pupils) leaving and a projected reception intake of 26 pupils. We therefore would hope to return to a manageable single year groups across the school.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Atkins  
Chair, Woodborough School Governing Body