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## BREWOOD CE (C) MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Specialist School For Science and Maths

15 July 2016

Dear Parents

### New Primary Structure

Over the last few months we have been reviewing our school organisation and from September 2016 we are creating a Primary structure within our Middle school setting. This will make transition from First schools for our incoming Year 5 pupils even smoother.

With the Government raising the expectations of schools to ensure pupils reach high standards by the end of Year 6 we think this is the only way of achieving better outcomes for your child and better prepare them for KS3. The current one hour lessons for each subject do not allow us to do this in the depth required.

A number of Staffordshire schools have introduced a Primary structure and this has enabled them to spend longer sessions on basic skills of reading, writing and maths and then apply these through a variety of cross-curricular topics. During the year members of the Senior Leadership team and Subject Leaders have visited these outstanding settings and we believe such a re-structure will benefit pupils at Brewood. The Governing Body are fully supportive of this change and so are staff who are currently developing new curriculum plans in preparation for September.

### September 2016

In September your child will be in one of four Year 5 or 6 classes. Mrs Barrett, Assistant Headteacher, will oversee the general management and pastoral support of Years 5 and 6 whilst Mrs Clews has been appointed as KS2 Leader to oversee the planning for Years 5 and 6 and the progress of all pupils within it.

Our new Primary Team will consist of:

#### **Year 5**

Mrs K Groom  
Mrs J Challenger  
Miss E George  
New appointment

#### **Year 6**

Mrs R Clews  
Mrs K Thomas  
Mrs L Sharratt  
Mrs L Shaw



As you can see, there is a wealth of experience in the team and this is being shared in planning meetings. We also using the County's English and Maths Advisors to ensure we are using best practice they have seen elsewhere.

Each day will begin with 15 minutes of mental maths, reading, spelling or handwriting practice. Pupils will then spend most of the day with their class teacher covering English, maths and a new session called 'Core Skills'; this daily session will be a chance for pupils to follow-up concepts or practice skills from English or maths. They may also apply these through cross-curricular opportunities. There will also be an hour a week for our Accelerated Reading programme and focussed Library work which is already engaging pupils with reading and helping to raise their reading ages. The Star Reader test and half-termly on line reading and spelling tests will help us identify quickly the progress being made and the intervention required to help your child progress quickly. The rest of the day will be spent on themed topic work whilst aspects like French, computer studies and music will be taught by our specialist teachers. New educational visits are being planned to enrich pupils' experiences throughout their topics.

All classes will be mixed ability and there will be no setting. Staff will plan differentiated work to challenge all groups. Pupils who need additional support will be given this by our qualified Teaching Assistants, where this is practicable.

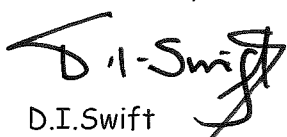
For pupils moving into Year 6 this will mean changing from setting to mixed ability groups. Senior staff who have visited Outstanding schools who have adopted this system have said there are no detrimental effects on Year 6. In fact, both progress and attainment have accelerated and their staff have told us that they could clearly see the benefits and would not wish to change back. Once pupils complete Year 6 they will move into Key stage 3, as it currently is.

All Year 5 and 6 classes will be situated in the same corridor and this will reduce movement around school and will make it easier for staff to plan together and discuss issues on a daily basis.

I believe this new Primary Structure will enhance educational provision at Brewwood and provide your child with greater opportunities to practise and extend their skills, knowledge and interests. Staff are excited about our changes and are currently planning a series of exciting topics and challenging work for the new academic year.

If you would like to discuss this further I am holding a 'drop-in' session for parents on Monday 18 July between 4:00 and 6:00pm in the school hall and you are welcome to come and talk further about this with me.

Best wishes,



D.I. Swift

Executive Headteacher