

We have had lots of feedback from the article setting out the key information about the Primary Conversion project in last week's newsletter. Thanks to all those who have contacted us with further questions.

As we said last week, every newsletter will include the latest information about the Primary Conversion project. Because there are a number of issues yet to be agreed with the County Council we are not able to answer every question at the moment, but we will let you know as soon as we have new information.

This week we have included a brief overview of the plans and answers to more of your questions. All the information included in last week's newsletter is now on our website here: [www.west-ewell.co.uk/](http://www.west-ewell.co.uk/)

Governors and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be holding information meetings for current parents to give you an opportunity to raise any questions in person. These will take place on

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm and
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm

So that we are able to answer your questions in as much detail as possible, if you have any particular issues you want to raise we would be grateful if you would email questions in advance to [thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk).

In the meantime we hope the information here answers any questions you might have. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please email [thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk) and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

Clive Smitheram, Chair of Governors

### **Key information about the Primary Conversion project**

- West Ewell Infant School and Nursery will be converting to an all-through primary school and nursery from September 2017, when we will have our first Year 3 children in school.
- This means that unfortunately our current Year 2 children will have to leave us at the end of this school year, but our current Year 1 children will be able to stay at West Ewell and complete all of their primary education here. All children currently in Year 1 are guaranteed a place at West Ewell for Years 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Any children currently in Year 1 who will have siblings already at Danetree by September 2017 will have the option to transfer to Danetree as part of the primary conversion special arrangements. This will only be an option in September 2017. We would love all of our children to stay at West Ewell, but we understand that families need to make the decision that best works for them.

- In September 2016 we will have three classes starting reception (not four as we have now). From September 2017 we will have 2 classes starting reception each year. We will not be changing our admission criteria for the Primary School.
- We intend our new school to be called West Ewell Primary School and Nursery, and governors will take the decision on this in due course
- West Ewell's Nursery will be piloting a flexible nursery model for 3-4 year olds. From September 2016, we will be offering the following flexible options:
  - 5 morning sessions a week

- 5 afternoon sessions a week
- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday morning
- Wednesday afternoon/Thursday/Friday
- We will also be offering the flexible nursery model for 2 year olds from September 2016
- For both 2 year olds and 3-4 year olds, parents will also have the option to pay for an additional 15 hours of Nursery sessions, on top of the 15 hours they access through the free nursery provision to give their child 30 hours Nursery provision.

### **Frequently asked questions**

Last week's newsletter included detailed answers to all of the questions below. You can find these answers on our website here: [www.west-ewell.co.uk/](http://www.west-ewell.co.uk/)

- What will the new school be called?
- Will the uniform change?
- Will staff be able to teach the Year 3 to Year 6 curriculum?
- Why does it say 'up to four classes' for the year group starting Year 3 in 2017/18 as they move through the school?
- Are any building works needed for the current site?
- How will the school be laid out? Which year groups will go where?
- What will the admissions criteria be for West Ewell when it becomes a primary school?
- My younger child is currently in Year 1 and I have an older child who is already in Danetree and I want both my children to be in the same school. For Year 3, can I choose to send my child to Danetree or do I have to keep them at WEIS?
- How will the transfer arrangements work for children with siblings already at Danetree if parents want to move them across to Danetree? Will they need to apply through the application process as if for junior school or will there be a special process?
- If I don't have another child already in Danetree in September 2017, can I choose to send my child to Danetree for Year 3 onwards?
- Will children that have moved to Danetree before 2017 (and so would be in Year 4, 5 or 6 in September 2017) be able to come back to WEIS when it becomes a primary school?
- The children currently in Year 1 will be the first year group to go into Year 3 and will be the first to experience the 'junior school' bit of West Ewell. How will you manage this?
- I have heard that Danetree will only accept full classes to transfer over in September 2017, with the suggestion that if there are 40 children who want to move across, they will only take a whole class worth of 30 children. Is this true?

More of your questions are answered below. If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please email [thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:thayford@west-ewell.surrey.sch.uk) and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

#### **1. When will you be contacting nursery parents about the changes from September 2016?**

We will be contacting Nursery parents in January to ask them to indicate their preferences for these flexible options and we will try to accommodate everyone's preferences.

#### **2. What will the admission criteria be for Nursery?**

For 3-4 year olds, we will continue to use the Surrey County Council admissions criteria. This means that the County Council will prioritise applications as follows: 1. Looked after children 2. Exceptional circumstances 3. Siblings 4. Distance between school and home address 5. Any other applicant.

Places for September 2016 will be offered in January/ February.

For 2 year olds, admission criteria will be 1. FEET **Free Early Education and Childcare for Two Year Olds.**

(including Looked after children). Please see the Surrey CC website for FEET funding criteria 2. Exceptional circumstances 3. Siblings 4. Distance between school and home address 5. Any other applicant.

Dates for allocation of places will be confirmed in the New Year.

**3. Will lunch be provided at the nursery?**

**We would like to be able to offer lunch for the nursery children. This will be dependent on a number of issues to be agreed with Surrey. We will update you as soon as we have any new information about this.**

**4. How many places will be offered in September 2016 for nursery?**

**38 per session for 3 and 4 year olds (Some of these places will be for children placed in the Pre School Centre for children with Speech Language and Communication Needs - numbers to be confirmed)**

**We are planning to provide 8 places per session for 2 year olds**

**5. How many places will be offered for Reception in September 2016 and September 2017?**

In September 2016 we have three Reception classes, so we will admit 90 children. In September 2017 we will have two Reception classes, so we will admit 60 children.

**6. The children currently in Year 1 will always be the oldest children in the school as they move up through the year groups. How is the school going to prepare those children for moving to secondary school, especially adjusting to being around much older children, when they won't have been at school with older children for 5 years?**

**We recognise that this may be a challenge and will ensure that the Senior Leadership Team keep this as a focus. Within school we will seek opportunities for children to work in different groups and change these groupings and even mix classes to allow children to develop the skills to initiate new friendships and to be confident to work with a wider peer group. We will continue to have a school council, playground buddies and will look to provide opportunities for children to take on additional leadership responsibilities as they progress through the school supporting the younger children below them.**

**We will continue to work closely with other schools in our local area where there is a well-established and successful transition group. (This group is made up of teachers from each of the schools in the borough) Historically we have organised music and dance festivals, art exhibitions and football tournaments to name a few of the opportunities the children have had to work with older children which we will of course continue with. We will seek further opportunities for year 7 children to visit and work alongside our children where possible.**

**I have already discussed the pros and cons of this issue with the headteacher of Southfield Park and she tells me the positives far outweigh any challenges and that the children in her school made excellent progress and went on to achieve excellent GCSE results this year.**

**7. I have a child currently in Year 2 and another in Reception at WEIS. My older child will have to move for Year 3 in September 2016 and I hope this will be to Danetree. Will it be possible for my younger child to also benefit from the sibling transfer policy to move to Danetree too when they get to Year 3, so I have both children in the same school?**

**We have raised this question with Surrey and have been advised that this will not be an option. If parents have any further enquiries we suggest you Contact Mr J Broad at Danetree Junior School.**

**8. I have a child in Year R and a younger child not yet of school age. If all current Year 1 children stay at WEIS for year 3 and beyond, do you have any idea of the number of siblings potentially coming into the school over the next few years? Will there be more siblings than places available when we are a two form entry primary school?**

Historically we know that there are 25 – 30 siblings on average in each year group. Although we cannot say for certain we are confident that there will be enough places for all siblings.

**9. How will the curriculum change?**

We will continue to follow the national curriculum. We provide a creative and challenging curriculum which will continue to build on the early experiences the children have had with us in Key stage 1. We will continue to focus on developing each child's individual interests and talents and enrich our curriculum in a variety of ways to support this. We are excited to be able offer a Modern Foreign Language and will update you nearer the time on the language we choose include in our curriculum We also look forward to extending our range of clubs and activities to enhance the children's opportunities.

**Ofsted describe our curriculum as 'exceptional'.**

Other questions have been put to us by parents (see below) and we will have answers to all these questions over the next few weeks:

- 1. What facilities will the school need for children in Years 3 to 6, that you haven't had to have for the infant school? How will they be provided?**
- 2. What will happen at playtime and lunchtime?**
- 3. How will you provide access to the sports facilities needed for Years 3 to 6?**
- 4. Will there be additional staff employed with specific KS2 teaching/ leadership experience?**
- 5. What support will there be for the leadership team as they work through the issues relating to the conversion to a primary school?**

**Views from your school governors**

We're really excited about West Ewell becoming a Primary school. Many of us have been WEIS governors for many years and have seen the school move from strength to strength.

Between us we include former West Ewell pupils and parents, current West Ewell parents and grandparents, teaching staff, local councillors, current and former deputy heads of other primary and secondary schools, and people from the West Ewell community committed to helping the school become even better.

We know that the new West Ewell Primary School and Nursery will build on the excellent foundation of the Infant School and nursery that we all know and love. What makes us so confident? Well, the facts speak for themselves:

- A nurturing school ethos that runs through all school activities
- Happy children that are supported to reach their potential
- Consistently positive views expressed by parents
- Children achieving significantly above the national average in all subjects
- Enthusiastic, experienced and well-qualified teachers and support staff
- Experienced and skilled governors with a wide range of experience and skills, including experience of running primary and secondary schools
- And not forgetting a proven track record of excellence, with 10 years of Outstanding education recognised by Ofsted

We hope to see you on either Tuesday 8 December or Tuesday 15 December to talk to you about this more and answer your questions.

Clive Smitheram, Jane Gillies, Rob Ivens, Mia Bennett, Eber Kington, Sam Makepeace, Ian Cook-Abbott, Kate Herbert, Guy Robbins, Clare Goldsmith, Chris Cornell, Feena Graham and Wendy Thomas

**Your West Ewell Infant School and Nursery Governors**