

Move Up Day

This afternoon, our children will be meeting the teachers and support staff that they will be with next year. For our current Year 6 pupils, they are visiting their new secondary schools for the whole day. This transition from old to new classes takes place every year, and is an essential part of helping the children to manage change.

Your child should bring home with them today a transition document with photos of the members of staff in the relevant year group. As well as helping the children, we hope you find this useful in matching the names to faces in our very large school. We have also attached a staff structure document for parents and carers, which provides quite a lot of information regarding how our school is staffed and organised.

One of the features of being a three form primary with 90 – 96 children in each cohort, is the scope we have to decide how to group our pupils in classes. Our long established pattern is as follows: -

- Classes are formed in Year R and stay together until the end of Year 2.
- The classes are split at the end of Year 2, with the new classes staying together in Years 3&4.
- We split again at the end of Year 4, with those new classes staying together until they leave for secondary school.

We do this in order to encourage an ethos of widening friendships and the adaptability to successfully collaborate and learn with an increasing range of people. We have no doubt that this approach has significantly contributed to many former Berrywood pupils adjusting well to their secondary school environments and beyond.

For the majority of children, the class splitting process is something that they take in their stride. For our part, we always emphasise the positive opportunities this brings and seek to support pupils who find change unsettling. A lot of care and consideration goes into forming new classes, with members of staff taking into account a lot of factors in order to achieve a good balance across the year group.

'School Within a Garden' Summer Fayre

Thank you to all the children, parent and staff volunteers for running stalls and helping out at the summer fayre on Saturday. Well done too to all the 120+ children who took part in an event or performance on the day, you helped to provide entertainment and enjoyment for lots of people! Thank you also to our community for turning out in force to support, and we hope you had a very pleasant afternoon in the sunshine.

We set out with the aim of making sure our children had opportunities to take part, and we are very pleased with how they responded to this. We also set out to celebrate our *school within a garden* ethos and the Market Days venture, through which, so much of this energy is channelled. Mindful of ongoing financial pressures, we tried to keep the cost of the stalls as low as possible and included some free activities too. We are pleased that the vast majority of feedback we have received seems to suggest that by-and-large we were successful in achieving these aims. Overall, we managed to raise just over £3,700 towards school funds.

There are of course a number of people who played special parts in bringing the fayre together. Although too many to name individually, I do want our community to know that these people are being recognised and thanked appropriately. I am very proud of the team that put so much effort into this event. As for future fund-raising community events, I look forward to us continuing with the approaches we carved out this summer. I am especially keen to see how the *Busking Band* develops over the coming months!

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly
Headteacher

