



05th June 2020

Dear Parent(s)

You will be aware of the continuing challenging budgetary circumstances facing primary schools in Northern Ireland. In September 2019, it became necessary to create composite classes in Years 1-3 and we will have to continue a composite class arrangement in September 2020. The Board of Governors wish to be clear to parents that this decision is completely unavoidable due to the significant budget constraints and reduced pupil numbers.

The process for introducing composite classes is set out in the school's Composite Class Policy based on guidance from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. This policy can be viewed on the school website. In line with this policy, the sixteen new Primary 1 pupils in September 2020 will be joined by the youngest 11 pupils from next year's Primary 2. The 7 oldest pupils from next year's Primary 2 will join with next year's Primary 3 pupils. This will result in 2 new composite classes each with 27 pupils.

Miss R Kealey will teach the Year 1/2 class 5 days per week from September to January. Mrs C McKenna hopes to return from Maternity Leave in January 2021.

Miss McKinney will teach the Year 2/3 class from Monday to Wednesday. Mrs Hegarty will teach the Year 2/3 class on Thursdays and Fridays.

Your child _____ will, therefore, be taught by **Miss B McKinney/Mrs AM Hegarty** in the **Year 2-3 class**. This class will be made up of seven Year 2 children and twenty Year 3 children.

St. Mary's PS Altinure wish to be clear to parents that all pupils will be supported in reaching their potential regardless of whether they are in a composite class or not, so enabling equal opportunities for all. We believe this will be achieved through detailed curriculum planning, close liaison among our teachers, in-service training as needed and through our normal monitoring to ensure that high standards of teaching and learning remain uncompromised. Teacher planning will ensure that all Year 2 pupils will have opportunities to come together whenever possible eg for play, P.E. etc...

Should you have any queries or concerns, or wish to have any further information at this time, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Redmond.

We would like to reassure all parents that the Board of Governors and staff of St. Mary's PS Altinure are fully committed to ensuring that our reputation for high quality provision continues.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mary Redmond Rufus Inyang
Principal Chairperson of the Board of Governors