

Headteacher

John Galvin

Petworth CofE Primary SchoolSouth Grove, Petworth,
West Sussex, GU28 0EE**Tel:** 01798 342369**Fax:** 01798 343195**E-mail:** office@petworth.w-sussex.sch.uk**Website:** www.petworth.w-sussex.sch.uk12th February 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Two changes from September 2025

Like most schools, our funding has been reduced in real terms every year since 2010. Since I started at Petworth in January 2016, we have been creative with our budget to ensure every penny has an impact on every child.

A school with seven classes needs to have 210 children to ensure it can cover all of its costs and not have a deficit budget. With careful budgeting, and with only 158 children at present, we have ensured we have not overspent despite our number on roll being around 160. This equates to a gap in our budget of over £200,000 a year which we cannot sustain any longer.

Over the last few years, we have ensured we have not gone into a deficit budget without compromising what we offer the children. To do this, we have had staff completing more than one role in school, which is unfortunately unsustainable.

Therefore, we have had to make the difficult decision, and in the best interests of the children, to ensure we maintain and build upon the high-quality holistic education opportunities for every child, we will be moving from seven classes to six classes from September 2025.

With only 12 children in Year 5 in September 2025, we will be introducing a Year 3/4 class and a Year 4/5 class. So, from September 2025 we will have:

- Oak Class (Reception)
- Ash Class (Year 1)
- Rowan Class (Year 2)
- Beech Class (Year 3 and 4)
- Elm Class (Year 4 and 5)
- Willow Class (Year 6)

However, during the year, children will have opportunities to work in their year group on certain projects.

We hope to only have mixed classes for two years as long as the number of children joining the school in Reception maintains at its present numbers. In June, I will be speaking to parents of our present Year 3 children about next steps.

Secondly, we will be maintaining the high number of TA's, above national for our size of school, in all classes to support our children. Trialling for one year, we will be establishing a specialist unit run by Miss Pennicotte-Henrie in the afternoons for children who find mainstream a challenge.

This space will predominately be for children with an EHCP but we know other children will benefit from this on occasions throughout the year. Either directly or indirectly, all children will benefit from this new area.

If you wish to discuss the above, please do come in and see me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Galvin', written in a cursive style.

John Galvin