

Letter to Headteachers from LA

Children's Services and Learning

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Please ask for: James Howells

09/07/12

Dear Headteacher

I am writing in relation to Wordsworth Infant School. As I'm sure you are aware, the school is enlarging to a 3-form entry primary school from September 2012, with the first year of Year 3 admissions being September 2015. However, as the building project has developed further it is apparent that the new school building will be fully completed by summer 2013, meaning that there will be a number of classrooms that would remain vacant for some time.

A number of parents of children currently attending Wordsworth have contacted the Local Authority about the prospect of the school admitting Year 3 pupils from September 2013, two years earlier than originally planned. The school are now going to canvas the opinions of its current parent/pupils to see how much interest there would be in this proposal. If there is support for this idea the LA would seek to go to Cabinet to get an amendment to the original Cabinet decision, thus enabling the school to admit Year 3 Pupils from 2013 onwards.

As a neighbouring school, we would be interested in hearing your views on the prospect of the school admitting Year 3 pupils earlier than planned. If you have any comments please send them to Wordsworth Infant School or to the contact details at the top of this letter. We would be grateful if you send in any responses by Tuesday 22nd May 2012.

Yours sincerely

James Howells
School Organisation & Strategy Manager
Children's Services and Learning

Letter to parents from school

25th April 2012

To the Parents of Children in Red, Orange, Green and Blue bases.

Since presenting the plans for the new building to the public, a significant number of parents have approached me and asked if it would be possible for the children who are currently in Year R and Year 1 classes to remain at the school as a possible Year 3. I have relayed these comments to Southampton City Council as this would bring the expansion of the school forward by two years. Consequently, the Local Authority have asked me to find out how many Year R and Year 1 parents would wish their children to remain at Wordsworth if there were provision for Year 3 places.

In order to get a better understanding of the number of parents who would want their child to remain at Wordsworth we need to have an answer to the following question.

Would you be interested in your child/children progressing to year 3 in 2013 (for current year 1 pupils) or 2014 (for current year R pupils) if the new classrooms were ready by September 2013?

If you would like your child to remain at Wordsworth in a possible Year 3 class please complete the slip below and return to me via the school office. **Please return by Friday 4th May.**

Do not return the slip if you intend to seek a place at another junior school.

Many thanks for your great support.

Mr Paul Betteridge
Headteacher

Dear Mr Betteridge,

I would like my child, (insert child's name), in
..... base, (insert colour) to remain at Wordsworth School **if** there was
a Year 3 class.

Signed Parent.

Responses to the consultation

Informal Responses from Parents

Date Received	Comment
16/04/2012	<p>I wish to be informed of the reasoning behind why Wordsworth is becoming a Primary that will be operational from Sept 2013 yet my child who will enter yr3 in 2013 will not be able to stay on.</p> <p>If the facilities are all built and operational and parents wish for their children to have continuity in their education then surely it is an obvious outcome for the pupils to stay on. I also think that it would be beneficial to let a single class intake run through the upper school to test the water and iron out any kinks before the full 3 class intake works all the way through.</p> <p>I am aware that the logic is that you wouldn't want to affect other schools class sizes - however some children will plan to move regardless of the new facilities as they have older siblings. I however will have 2 younger children there. As the boys will go all the way through I feel that to remove the option to have them educated in the same place is not considering the best interests of the children, and also it may result in incidences of overlap of school activities ie sports days or assemblies and then one child would get left out.</p> <p>She is deaf and the level of care she has received at Wordsworth has been exceptional.</p>
19/04/2012	<p>I am writing with regard to the current plans for Wordsworth Infant School to become a Primary school.</p> <p>I understand from friends and colleagues whose children currently attend Wordsworth in year one, that they are eager to have them stay on in year three. My youngest son currently attends Shirley Infant School (SIS), and as Shirley Junior School (SJS) is quite heavily over subscribed, I would like to add my support of this initiative. I'm sure other parents with children at SIS in year one would be keen for Wordsworth to be in a position to take year three pupils from 2013 too.</p> <p>If there is some form of official information gathering and canvassing to be done, would you be seeking opinions from SJS and it's parents? Is there literature regarding this matter that I could have sight of?</p>
17/04/2012	<p>I am contacting you regarding potential changes to the current admissions plans following the expansion work at Wordsworth infant school in Shirley to be completed Sept 2013. My daughter is currently in year 1 at Wordsworth infant school and my son will start in year R in September this year. I am very interested in showing my support for the changes to the current admission plans in Sept 2013 - I include a section from a reply letter received by one of my fellow parent friends at the school after she raised the issue to the council:</p> <p>"When the expansion proposal was first put forward it was not anticipated that the project would be completed so quickly so we decided to stagger the expansion with the school taking an extra year R class in September 2012 with year 3 pupils starting in September 2015. However, as the school is due to be completed by September 2013, we are aware that a number of parents expressed an interest in their children progressing to year 3 in 2013. We are currently looking into this to see if there is enough demand throughout the school to justify year 3 places being made available 2 years earlier than planned. We will endeavour to keep all parents informed about any changes to the admission arrangements for Wordsworth."</p> <p>I understand that if there is enough demand for places and enough interest from parents there might be a chance for my daughter to say at Wordsworth when she moves up to year 3. This is excellent news and I fully support this proposed move as my daughter is very settled at Wordsworth; it would be great if I could keep her at her current school where she is happy and achieving well.</p> <p>It would also be highly convenient to me as a mother of 3 in my daily school run travel arrangements... as it stands my daughter will have to move to a nearby junior school in Sept 2013 and I will have 2 school drop-offs with my son in year 1 at Wordsworth and my 17 month old daughter attending Rainbow pre-school on the Wordsworth site, but if admission plans change and my daughter gets to stay, it would potentially make my mornings a lot less hectic as I could drop all 3 off at once! Please support me by agreeing to the Wordsworth 2013 admissions plans changes! I am not the only mother who would benefit from these current changes and I will spread the word!</p>
24/04/2012	<p>I am writing to inform that due to the new Primary School building being completed in Sept 2013 I am in favour of Wordsworth Infant School allowing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current Year 1 students to be allowed to continue into Wordsworth Primary School for Year 3 the current Year R students to be allowed to continue into Wordsworth Primary School <p>It would be beneficial to allow the children to move into the Primary School.</p> <p>It would ease the burden of trying to find places for the children amongst the surrounding Junior and Primary Schools due to the rising number of school age children in Southampton. I note that two schools had to increase their acceptance in the number of students for Junior School due to the rising number of children. Therefore, it would be perfect if Wordsworth Primary School was allowed to accept the current Year 1 pupils.</p>

	<p>Many children in the current Year 1 have younger siblings in the current Year R or starting in Year R in September 2012.</p> <p>It will also ease the burden within the admissions team of having less of an influx of Year 2 children applying for a place at a Junior and/or Primary School.</p> <p>Also, where I live, a catchment Junior School no longer exists due to the surrounding schools changing into Primary Schools.</p>
19/04/2012	<p>Firstly, Thank you so much for my younger sons placement for which we have received a confirmation today. We are delighted with the decision.</p> <p>I have 2 sons, my older son currently attends Wordsworth and He is in year 1. My younger son today has received confirmation of his placement to there too to start September 2012.</p> <p>Following an open event at the school recently we were shown plans and had the opportunity to chat to a couple of people regarding the development of the building and potential time scale of when it would be finished.</p> <p>From this meeting we were made aware that the timescale being that the school building/amenity's would be completed by 2013- this being when my older son would be due to leave. Prior to this open event we were advised we would need to apply to send him to another school because of the staggered intake.</p> <p>Please can you advise if this would still be the case?,</p> <p>Should the building be ready and enough children willing to stay on at wordsworth surely it would be both beneficial to the children, school and local community to allow the current year 1 pupils to continue there education and not up root to another school, hence leaving a building up occupied.</p>
19/04/2012	<p>I have a 6 year old son who currently attends Wordsworth Infant School as a yr 1 pupil. On discussion with other parents I also feel it would be great if the children could stay as yr 3 pupils (2013) once the school is built. (I had previously mentioned this to the headmaster a few months ago too) My son has achieved so much whilst being at Wordsworth and he is very settled within his education and i feel he would gain so much by not being up rooted in a years time. I volunteer within the school as i am going to be attending college in sept of this year to become a teaching assistant. By my son changing school this would also make this difficult to get from 2 different schools. Speaking to alot of the other parents i know they feel the same especially as some will also have younger children within the school . I really do hope that we can keep our children at Wordsworth and i am personally more than happy to do what it takes to achieved this i.e fundraising .</p>
11/05/2012	<p>The governors [of Shirley Infant] have no objection to the admittance of Year 3 pupils earlier than planned at Wordsworth. In fact we think it will be to the benefit of the local community that the pupils can continue their education in the same school.</p> <p>It is unlikely to have an effect on our school directly, but we anticipate that it will impact on Shirley Junior school who I imagine will like to respond to your letter.</p>

Responses from School Headteacher's

Date Received	Comments
11/05/2012	<p>The governors have no objection to the admittance of Year 3 pupils earlier than planned at Wordsworth. In fact we think it will be to the benefit of the local community that the pupils can continue their education in the same school.</p> <p>It is unlikely to have an effect on our school directly, but we anticipate that it will impact on Shirley Junior school who I imagine will like to respond to your letter.</p>

Summary of Responses to school consultation

Year Group / Class	Total number of children in the class	Number of parents in class who did respond	Number who did not respond
YR – Red base	30	21	9
YR – Orange base	29	22	7
Y1 – Green base	29	21	8
Y1 – Blue base	30	22	8

All responses received were in support of their children progressing to year 3 at Wordsworth.