



Friday, 05 June 2026

Dear parents / carers,

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Year 4 transition and Mersea residential meeting last night despite the terrible weather! Mr Nash will be forwarding his slides containing important information about the Mersea residential which happens very early on in September. In regards to the transition to Year 5, I felt that it was important to write to you to ensure that the messages are shared with everyone as there are some changes for this coming September.

For a long time, West Leigh has operated a system in Year 5 and 6 whereby children are streamed into either an accelerating or consolidating classes. The rationale for this was that children who are most able to work independently and at pace can do so in a larger accelerating class and children who are less confident are part of a smaller consolidating class with more adult support.

Whilst the system has many positives, it is hard to prevent the process from being a challenging one for children and parents.

We have therefore decided to change things for this coming September to a new system which maintains the targeted academic support but is less stressful for everyone. Instead of having streamed classes, from Year 5 we will now have English bands similar to our existing maths bands. We will still mix the children up into new classes as this is a healthy thing to do having had 3 years in their current classes. However, these will be mixed classes which take into account the different characteristics and needs across the year group.

To clarify, the children will have:

- A main class for all lessons excluding maths and English
- A maths band in the same way as Years 3 and 4
- An English band which will work in a similar way to maths

The children will find out their new classes when they meet their teachers on Friday 3rd July and will find out their English bands in September.

We believe that this strikes the balance between targeted academic support whilst avoiding the challenging elements of the streaming system.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mr M Aggus

