

## **KIRK SMEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF A SCHOOL AND CREATE AN AFTERNOON GROUP FOR 3-4 YEAR OLDS**

The Governing Body of Kirk Smeaton Primary School is proposing to make a new early years provision for 3-4 year olds. We would like to know the views of parents and other interested members of the community.

### Why are the governors making these proposals?

Kirk Smeaton Primary School is proposing to provide term time afternoon places (1.00-3.25pm) for 3 and 4 year olds as an extension of current reception class provision, by the creation of a 'Starfish Explorers' Group. Dedicated early years staff would work together to provide an excellent environment for a young child's development. The group will be teacher-led and will be established with the aim of supporting school readiness, progress in children's teaching and learning, and transition into our school. This will complement the free funded early education entitlement which the children currently access with other local providers.

### What would our new Starfish Explorers Group provision look like?

The Starfish Explorers Group will be held in the indoor and outdoor spaces currently used by the reception class. Our early years and Key Stage 1 team will work closely to make the teaching and learning provision appropriate to match the children's needs. There will be high quality play-based provision including role play, sand, water, construction, reading, mark making, and outside play. The classroom will be equipped with suitable furniture, equipment and resources for 3 and 4 year olds. There will be free flow between areas, including outside, offering children the choice of activities and allowing them to engage in learning which is relevant and appropriate to their stage of development.

### Why is this consultation taking place?

Currently the youngest children that the school can admit are in the reception class. In order to take younger children into the proposed new Starfish Explorers Group, legal processes must be followed to lower the age range for the school from 4-11 year olds, to 3-11 year olds. The first step in this process is that local people must be asked for their views. We are also very keen to know if you would be interested in taking a place for your child in our new provision.

### What will the charge be for a place?

The cost will be £5.00 per session for the first year, this charge will then be reviewed. Bookings will be required a half term in advance, and additional sessions may be available as required.

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of free Early Years Foundation Stage provision from the beginning of the school term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday until compulsory school age. This free entitlement can be taken up in maintained school nursery and 'foundation stage' classes and/or in an Ofsted registered private and voluntary sector provision. It is parental choice as to which type of provision is most appropriate for their child and most convenient for individual circumstances.

If a child who is attending the Starfish Explorers Group also attends the early years provision currently available in the community, we expect parents will use this entitlement at other provider. If this is not the case for any child who is attending, we will offer the free entitlement.

### How many places will be offered?

The proposed Starfish Explorers Group will provide up to 15 places for 3-4 year olds each afternoon.

### Which children would be eligible for a place?

Our Starfish Explorers Group is open to children aged 3 – 4 years.

### Deciding on admissions

The Headteacher will make in writing the offer of a place in the Starfish Explorers Group – on a 'first come, first served' basis.

All governing bodies are required to admit to the school a child with a statement of special needs that names the school. This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final statement of special educational needs (SEN) has been issued

### How will the new foundation stage class affect other providers?

The new Starfish Explorers Group will sit alongside early years provision currently available for the community. Local early years providers will be consulted on our proposal, and have the opportunity to make their views known. When a decision has been made about whether to proceed with the proposal or not, we will have further discussions with Went Valley preschool to agree arrangements for transferring children at the end of their session to the Starfish Explorers Group.

### What will happen next?

This is the first step of the consultation. Comments on this consultation will be considered by the Governing Body, which will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal. Once the consultation closes on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, there will be a decision made by 8<sup>th</sup> July and this will be added to the weekly newsletter.

If these proposals go ahead, when will the new Starfish Explorers Group begin?

It is proposed that the first children will join the Starfish Explorers Group in October 2016.

How do I make my views known

**Your views are important and we would value your opinions.** *You should complete the attached comments sheet and return it to the school. Comments should be returned by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016.*

If you have any further queries, these should be addressed to Mrs Cuddy (Headteacher )

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
KIRK SMEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF OUR SCHOOL AND TO CREATE A  
NEW AFTERNOON STARFISH EXPLORERS GROUP

Do you consider it desirable that the age range of the school is changed from 4-11 to 3-11 and a Starfish Explorers Group is set up at the school?

Yes

No

Any further comments you would like to make:

---

---

---

I would be interested in a place for my child(ren)

October 2016

October 2017

I would need  afternoons each week

Please state which days .....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the category you represent:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent

Governor

Other

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Kirk Smeaton C of E Primary School

The closing date for receipt of responses is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016