



Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery

Stanley Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5SH

Tel: 01227 372245 Fax: 01227 742305

Email: office@herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

Twitter : @HBInfantSchool

Headteacher: *Acting Headteacher:* Helen Day BA (Ed) Hons NPQSL

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Dear Families,

Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery proposes to reduce the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) from 120 to 90 for all new Reception (Year R) intakes from September 2021. This will mean that there will be 3 Year R classes instead of the current 4. This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception from 2021 will be 90.

There will be no impact on any child who already has a place in school in any year group. It will ONLY affect new entrants.

Kent County Council will undertake a formal consultation process. Any parents who wish to raise any objections or submissions of support can do so via the local authority once the consultation has begun. You will be informed of the date agreed with the Local Authority for the consultation to begin, along with any further relevant information.

Factors that have been considered by the school when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- Herne Bay has seen a recent decrease in the birth rate, which has led to a higher level of surplus places in many of the schools across the Herne Bay and the local district.
- Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery currently have 53 empty places within the school.
- Data from the Local Authority suggests that numbers are not projected to rise significantly soon.
- The Year R classes at Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery have not been full for the last 3 years.
- The new housing projects in Herne Bay are on the outskirts of the town and include proposals for schooling. House prices and the availability of other schools suggests that these housing developments are not guaranteed to increase intake for Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery in the future.
- Funding is awarded per pupil. Reduced pupil numbers means reduced funding whilst staffing costs remain the same.

The benefits of a reduced PAN would include:

- That an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils in line with Local Authority forecasts.
- That the increased space made available will alleviate the current pressure and allow for a more efficient use of space and resources within the school.
- The school believes that reducing the PAN will help to provide stability in long-term financial planning.
- This will help the school to deliver high quality educational outcomes for all pupils whilst continuing to offer a secure, happy, stimulating and attractive school environment.
- A school can increase its PAN without further consultation if pupil numbers rise in subsequent academic years.

Kind regards,

Sophie Gollop and Kate Amos

Co-Chair of Governors – Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery Governing Body.