

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Seals and Sea Otters joining together to become Sea Lions!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know about an important and positive change we are making to our Key Stage 1 class structure. From Monday, 26th January 2026, we will be merging our Seals and Sea Otters classes to form one brand-new class: Sea Lions. This decision has been made carefully, following robust cycles of assessment and discussions with academy leaders. We want to share with you why this change will be hugely beneficial to your child's learning and progress.

Why are we making this change?

Although two small classes seemed the ideal class structure in September, the reality is that this structure has not enabled children to make the progress we expected nor enable the children to make the accelerated progress we know they are capable of. Bringing the classes together will allow us to deliver more consistent, responsive and impactful teaching every single day.

A stronger teaching team

The new Sea Lions class will be taught by two familiar teachers, Miss Spence and Mrs McLean, working together in the classroom. They will be supported by three teaching assistants: Mrs Walker, Mrs Barrack, and our new staff member, Mr Rolfe.

This means a staff-to-pupil ratio of 1 adult to around 6-7 children, depending on the task. This is an exceptional level of support and far higher than is typically seen in KS1 classrooms.

With five adults in the room:

- Learning misconceptions can be addressed immediately
- Behaviour can be monitored closely and positively
- Pupils can receive targeted 1:1 or small-group support
- Staff can challenge pupils effectively to move learning forward

More consistency, less disruption

Currently, KS1 pupils already move between classes for phonics, reading, writing and maths, depending on which teacher is delivering the lesson. While this has worked well in many ways, it also leads to lost learning time when transitioning during the day.

Having one combined class means:

- No movement between rooms
- Fewer interruptions
- More time spent learning
- Children receiving teaching from the adults they know best

This consistency is especially important during staff absence, and we want to highlight that a familiar teacher is always present in the classroom, ensuring routines, high expectations, and learning continuity are maintained.

Improved assessment and intervention

By combining the classes and increasing the number of staff working together in one space, we will be able to:

- Make quicker and more accurate assessments
- Respond immediately in the moment
- Provide higher-quality interventions
- Accelerate progress to secure strong foundations for the next stage of learning

Although the idea of a larger class may feel unusual at first, bringing two small classes together actually increases the amount of expert input your child receives, not the other way around.

Putting your child first

This decision has been made with one priority in mind: **to give your child the very best education and support possible.** We are confident that the new Sea Lions class will create a more dynamic, responsive and effective learning environment, enabling children to make the progress we want for them.

We appreciate your trust and partnership, and we are excited about the positive impact this change will bring. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Tett to make an appointment and I would be happy to meet with you.

Warm regards,

Miss Howden

JHowden

(Principal)



The Ingoldmells Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust

The Greenwood Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 06864339.
 A list of Directors is available for inspection at the registered office, Greenwood House, Private Road No 2, Colwick Quays Business Park,
 Nottingham NG4 2JY. Further information about us is available at <http://www.greenwoodacademies.org>