



Wootton Bassett Infants' School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Pass

Thursday 27th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to inform you about changes to the structure of our classes for 2024-25. This is due to the predicted and continual decline in numbers of reception aged children in the area, and the associated reduction in the school budget that this brings. In considering these changes we also have to bear in mind that legally, all infant classes have to be below 30 children and we have two-year groups next year that exceed this threshold.

The school leadership team including representatives from the governors and the local authority have been working together to carefully consider various options for our school structure and as a result there will be 4 classes next year, three of which will be mixed year groups. Please see the table below which sets out how these will be organised:

	Number of children	Teacher(s)/Class name
Reception	22	Mrs. Bowditch and Miss Crimp
Reception/Year 1	20	Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Smith
Year 1/2	25	Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Tebbitt
Year 1/2	25	Miss Pearce

One of our key considerations was to ensure that re-structuring in this way means that the children are in smaller classes, which is much more beneficial to their development, learning and outcomes.

Children will be placed in a class with at least one friend as well as ensuring that children are in the best class to maximise their learning potential. Mixed year classes also provide greater opportunities to play with a wider variety of peers and promotes better social interaction and confidence as they move through the school. Arrangements for mixed classes are based on the professional judgements of the senior leadership team and teaching staff taking into account ability range, age group, additional needs, behaviour and relationships with their peers.



'Where Learning is Fun'

I understand that mixed year-group classes may cause some concern. However, please be assured that our priority will be to ensure children continue to settle well, make friendships and achieve their full potential regardless of the mix. Our teachers are highly trained professionals who always teach to the ability of the children regardless of their age and our experience shows that the progress of children in a mixed year group class is very similar to those in a single year group. As we all know, the chronological age of a child does not always equate to their ability.

Our ambitious curriculum, highly skilled and knowledgeable staff, as well as our consistent approach to support the needs of all children, was highlighted as a strength in our recent Ofsted inspection and we will continue to provide this regardless of class structure to ensure that all children are nurtured and continue to thrive at WBIS. It is important to stress that children will access the correct curriculum for their year group, age and stage of development and teachers are used to dealing with a wide range of ability and need.

I have absolute confidence in our engaging curriculum, excellent staff, extensive subject knowledge and efficient systems and routines. I am positive that all the children will have a fantastic time in their new classes. I know they'll continue to make great progress and develop all the other values and attributes that make successful learners and good citizens of the future.

Our teachers have worked and will continue to work very closely together on the organisation of the classes and the curriculum. They know your children very well; who their friends are and where a change of social group might be beneficial. There will be plenty of opportunities for all children to play together at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Your child's allocated class is attached with this letter.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do come and speak to me or any of the teaching staff. I am present on the gate most days if you want an informal chat or please contact the office and make an appointment.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Pass

Headteacher