

At *KIWI* we are soaring...

Striving for success

Owning our actions

Ambitious

Respectful, reflective, resilient



Kiwi Primary School
Hubert Hamilton Road, Bulford Camp, Salisbury,
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Headteacher: Mrs L Eatherington

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I understand there are concerns around having mixed age classes following the decision to have three mixed classes per phase rather than two straight year group and one mixed class per phase. I would like to reassure you that being in a mixed age class will not mean that your child receives less learning opportunities than they would if they were in single year group classes.

In a school, every year the numbers of children in each year group are reviewed alongside the individual needs of pupils in each group and the staffing available to teach each group. Different scenarios are then modelled and discussed with Governors before final class and staffing structures are decided. For the academic year 2024 – 2025, both the number of children and the increased financial pressures that schools face have resulted in there being three classes per phase, ie KS1 (Y1&2), LKS2 (Y3&4), UKS2 (Y5&6) at Kiwi Primary School.

This leaves two options for the Senior Leadership Team; two straight and one mixed class, eg Y3, Y3/4, Y4 or three Y3/4 classes. We have chosen the latter model for the following reasons:

- The National Curriculum is divided into KS1, Lower KS2 (Y3/4) and Upper KS2 (Y5/6). We will be setting out a two-year rolling programme moving forwards which will ensure that children in mixed age classes are taught everything set out in the curriculum whichever class they are in.
- Having three mixed classes strengthens a collaborative team approach amongst the teachers and TAs working in that wing and reduces individual teacher workload. This results in a more consistent approach to teaching and learning and improved outcomes for children, as well as supporting the retention of our valuable teaching team.

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- We are able to place a Teaching Assistant in every class, even in Upper KS2, (many schools do not). This higher-than-average staff to pupil ratio will support every child's development through more bespoke support.
- In mixed age classes children have a great opportunity to build independence in their learning. In this way, children do not always rely on adult support to access a task and become more confident independent learners.
- Children benefit in many ways from the opportunity to become an 'expert' for the younger children, and a positive role model which the younger children often aspire to.
- Mixed grouping can enhance and nurture deeper thinking and problem-solving skills across all subject areas.
- There can be a greater sense of co-operation and opportunities to work with a wider circle of peers and opportunities to build friendships from across a different year group.

Many schools have mixed age classes, and there is no evidence that being in a mixed age class has any detrimental effect on children's outcomes. With our skilled and experienced teaching team, we are confident that we will continue to provide a nurturing, safe environment in which the children will learn, grow and develop at a pace that is right for them.

Yours Sincerely,

L Eatherington

Mrs L Eatherington

Headteacher