



Dear Parents and Carers,

In September, when your child moves into Year 3, classes will look a little different to their experience so far in school because they will go into a mixed-age class. The information below aims to outline what that looks like and address any concerns you may have.

What is Mixed Age Teaching?

Mixed age teaching is when two or more year groups are combined to create one class of children. Due to the fact that we have 45 children in each cohort (which is equivalent to one and a half classes of 30), it isn't possible to organise the classes into separate year groups and therefore we have 3 classes to accommodate 2-year groups of pupils from Year 3 to Year 4 and this is organised into three Year 3/4 classes.

What happens when your child goes into a mixed age class?

Things that do happen!

They do make good progress, have individual attention, maintain friendships, make other friendships, play together, work together and experience another year group. **They all access the correct curriculum for their year group, age and stage of development**, although the pathways to the same learning will be different according to the class teacher, resources and needs of the pupils in the classes. The curriculum is taught on a two-year programme so children never repeat any topic. This is a natural progression from the National Curriculum as objectives are already organised into Year 3/4 so they fit well with the use of mixed-age classes. At the end of year two all children are asked to anonymously name their friends and staff ensure that **all children** are placed in a class with a friend as well as ensuring that children are in the best class to maximise their learning potential.

Things that don't happen!

They are not kept down or held back and they definitively do not miss out. Just as children reach all their baby milestones at different rates, so too the stages of their learning journey will progress differently as they move through the school. Ultimately the most important factor is how they complete that learning journey by the end of two years.

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What are the benefits to mixed age teaching?

There are however many proven benefits to mixed age teaching, such as:

- There is a greater focus on individualisation.
- This results in better differentiation.
- Pupils form wider friendships.
- Pupils relate to broader groups of other children
- There is greater flexibility of learning opportunities

What is the whole school approach?

We work hard throughout the school to ensure that all children in a particular year group maintain their group's identity. Opportunities will be created for all children in the year group to work together, take part in workshops and trips together, sit together at dinner time and play together. Bump up day for the children will be Mon 18th July all children will spend the day meeting their new teachers and spend time preparing for the changes that will happen in the Autumn term.

What are the teachers' responsibilities when teaching mixed age classes?

All teachers are responsible for the individual development of every child in their class. Mixed year group classes do not change this responsibility. There is already a wide range of needs within each class and year group and the teachers are already proficient at adapting the curriculum to meet the pupils' individual needs across the curriculum.

In mixed year group classes the teachers take the objectives and plan a programme of study to teach these objectives effectively across the ability range of the class. At times pupils will work at the same tasks but at different levels of ability and at other times the pupils will do completely different work specific to their needs within that area of learning.

If you would like to discuss this further or ask any questions, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Pointon through the school office.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Pointon
Headteacher