



The Federation of
**Fryern Infant &
Junior Schools**

The Fryern Federation
Oakmount Road
Chandler's Ford
Hants SO53 2LN
Tel: 02380 254155

Acting Headteacher of Infant School: Miss Louise Piggin
Acting Headteacher of Junior School: Miss Sarah Roberts

Growing Together, Learning for Life

3rd October 2023

Dear Parents

Over the next few years pupil numbers in the local area and at Fryern are falling. As a result of this we have had to make the decision that from September 2024, we will be running mixed age classes in Year 1 and 2. Prior to taking this decision, we have carefully reviewed the numbers in each year group and modelled different scenarios for going forward, discussing these with Governors and the local authority on multiple occasions. We believe the chosen scenario of mixed age classes will enable us to meet the needs of our whole school community most effectively. The information below aims to outline what mixed age classes 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 less than 45 children in each of our current Year R & 1 cohorts (which is equivalent to only one and a half classes of 30 per year), it isn't possible to teach the children in two separate year groups. Therefore, next year we will have 3 classes of up to 30, mixed Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.

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

Things that will happen!

- Children will continue to make good progress, have individual attention, maintain friendships, make other friendships, play together and work together.
- Children will have the opportunity to experience another year group.
- All children will still access the correct curriculum for their year group, age and stage of development, although the pathways to the same learning will be different.
- The curriculum will be 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 key stage one objectives so they fit well with the use of mixed-age classes. We have already started working on our curriculum to ensure we have some new exciting topics and to ensure that all pupils are stretched and challenged.

Things that won't happen!

- Children will not be kept down or held back and they definitely won't miss out.

Staff are aware of the complexities of teaching mixed age classes. There are however, many proven benefits to mixed age teaching, such as:

- A greater focus on individualisation.
- Even better differentiation.
- Greater flexibility of learning opportunities.
- More opportunities for children to form wider friendships and relate to broader groups of children.
- Staff can continue to work collaboratively in teams, planning and preparing the curriculum together.

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. 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.

Classes will be planned with our usual level of care and consideration to ensure that the classes are balanced academically with children having others around them who will be working on similar tasks and at the same time allowing children to maintain friendships and build new ones.

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

Kind regards



Louise Piggin
Acting Head Fryern Infants



Sarah Roberts
Acting Head Fryern Juniors



Miriam Bokhove
Chair of Governors