



9th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you of the class arrangements for Year 5 and 6 from September 2024. With a reduction in the number of pupils in the current cohort, we have taken the decision to combine the year groups and form 3 mixed aged classes instead of the traditional 2 classes per year group. This structure will enable us to further develop key social and academic skills to fully prepare our children for the next phase of their education (the transition into secondary school).

The classes have been mixed with careful consideration taken of friendship groups to ensure a smooth transition. Your child will have some of their current friends with them, however some may be in different classes. Please reassure your child that they will have the opportunity to see their friends at playtime and lunchtimes and may also be in groups with them throughout the day.

The year group will be known as Pre-Secondary. The classes will be Diamond, Platinum, and Silver. All children in the Pre-Secondary year group are expected to wear ties. These are available to purchase from the uniform shop.

The Teaching Team will consist of:

- Miss Hunter (Pre-Secondary Leader and Diamond Class Teacher)
- Ms Mohamed (Platinum Class Teacher)
- Ms Barkley (Silver Class Teacher)

Additional Teachers (teaching of reading, writing and maths):

- Mrs Patel (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mrs Vitas (Assistant Headteacher)
- Ms Santos (Inclusion Teacher)
- Ms Smith (Specialist Maths Teacher)

Support Staff

- Ms Muja (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
- Mr Bhojani (Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Patel (Teaching Assistant)
- Mr Flush (Teaching Assistant)

Your child met their class teacher today and spent some time getting to know them and their new class. We understand that you will have some questions about the change in structure of the classes. We have endeavoured to pre-empt some of those questions and answer them overleaf. If after reading the information in this letter, you still have questions, please do not hesitate to speak to myself (Mrs Harmer) or Mrs Patel (Deputy Headteacher).

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Mrs Harmer

What is a mixed age class?

A mixed age class is defined to be a class in which there are children who are from more than one year group of the primary school.

Why are mixed age classes formed?

Mixed aged classes are formed partly because of the number of children in the year group but more so, because of the benefits associated with them. Grouping in this way nurtures thinking and problem-solving skills as well as supporting to develop vital social skills that will be required when children begin secondary school. In mixed aged classes, there is a greater sense of cooperation and opportunities to work with a wider circle of peers. The structure will enable children to become familiar with secondary school routines such as changing classes, following timetables and working with a range of adults, ensuring a smooth transition to secondary school when the time comes.

Will my child be held back/find learning too difficult if she/he is placed in a mixed age class?

Your child will not be held back/too challenged in a mixed age class. The way in which teaching and learning is organised in primary schools means that teaching and work is tailored to the current learning needs of individual children. The staff at Brentfield are experienced at planning and providing challenge and support as required. To ensure that every child's learning needs are met, work for reading, writing and maths currently takes place in smaller groups across Year 6. We have additional experienced teachers in place to support the delivery of this. This model has proved effective over previous years and will be applied to the mixed year group classes next year.

How have the new classes been formed? I am concerned that forming a mixed age class may mean that my child's friendships will be broken up.

As mentioned earlier, careful consideration has been given to the formation of the new classes. Whilst existing friendships are important, it is good for children to experience classes with different peers. Children make friends quickly and we feel that a crucial part of social training is making new friends during their time with us. When children transfer to secondary school, new friendship groupings in different subject areas become a fact of life, and this situation prepares your child for that transition. We have endeavoured to ensure that your child has a least one close friend with them in their new class. It is vital that you remain positive in front of your child and talk up the benefits of meeting new people.

What will learning look like?

Children will register as a class every morning and afternoon. Reading, Writing and Maths will be delivered throughout the morning (8:45 - 12:00). This will take place in groups facilitated by the class teachers and additional teachers stated above. Children will return to their main class base between lessons to regroup. Groups are fluid and change at least every half term, if not sooner. The remaining curriculum will be delivered in the afternoon in their class groups. The curriculum will be organised into Year A and Year B and will run on a cycle so that learning is not duplicated. Science will be taught as separate year groups. Year 5 will continue to learn to swim and will also have the opportunity to go on a residential as a year group. Preparation for the Year 6 SATs will continue as normal within this structure. Educational visits will take place together.