



Scargill Church of England Primary School
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Head of School Mrs S Hallsworth
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to our message in the last newsletter regarding the organisation of classes next year, we would like to thank you for your support and keen interest in how it will work. Each department will soon be sending out a newsletter which will provide further detail on how we will be organising the curriculum to meet the needs of all children. However, we have received a few recurring questions from parents and want to take the opportunity to answer them below.

Q: What is the reason for the move to mixed age classes?

Quite simply the number of children across the school dictates this. We have lost 2 very big year groups over the last 2 years and we have 2 smaller year groups in year 1 and 2. We need to organise the school according to the number of children we have. In September we will have around 330 children, this number cannot support single age classes across the school.

Q How will the classes be decided upon?

The children's current teachers, who know the dynamics of the classes well, will organise the groupings for next year. This will be checked by the SLT. The classes will be a mix of ages, gender and ability. The teachers will also be very considerate of friendship groups.

Q How will the teachers teach the curriculum to two different year groups in the same class?

The curriculum will be taught on a 2-year cycle for most curriculum areas. Anything which needs to be taught in year groups will be supported by the additional staff we have e.g. Mrs Bown. Subject Leaders are currently adapting our curriculum for the mixed age classes and these will be available on our website when complete.

Q Was this a cost cutting exercise by the trust?

The trust does not set our budget, the school does this. It is not a cost cutting exercise but we can only afford the number of teachers that the number of pupils dictate.

Q Will the class sizes be big?

They will vary across the school. In some cases, children will be in slightly bigger classes in some cases slightly smaller. In no classes will there be more children than would be considered usual.

As I am sure you will appreciate, this decision was not made lightly. The foremost consideration was doing what is best for the children and ensuring we continue to provide the very best education for them. We believe this will successfully be done in our new structure in September.

Thank you for your continuing support

Mrs S Hallsworth
Head of School

Mr M Hetherington
Executive Head

