

**Chaucer Junior School**  
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**Head of School: Miss J. Mee**  
**Executive Headteacher: Mrs A. Upton**

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

At Chaucer Junior school, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors are committed to ensuring an effective environment for all pupils. The balance of pupils' characteristics and needs in each class across a year group can have a profound effect on the progress and happiness of each individual; sometimes this means that it is necessary to mix classes as they transition to a new year group.

We have decided to mix classes across all year groups in September. Having discussed the matter at length and seen the positive impact of mixing classes in the past. We feel that regular, routine mixing of classes will help the children's relationships, help to balance the classes and limit any ongoing friendship issues within classes allowing children to develop better resilience and broader friendships in a safe and comfortable environment. We feel that by mixing the year group, the children will have the opportunity to make friends across the year group and see themselves as a year group team rather than just a class, thus building a stronger school community and pride in our school.

We want our children to make maximum academic progress and develop personally and socially. The current class teachers know their children very well and will work together to draw up class lists for the new year. There will be consistent criteria for teachers to consider in order to harmonise the classes for the maximum benefit of the children.

- **Children's views on friendship**
- **Teacher's views on friendship**
- **Range of educational, personal and social needs**
- **Age and level of maturity**
- **Balance of Gender**
- **Balance of Special Educational Needs**
- **Balance of ability**
- **Family relationships such as in year siblings.**

Please rest assured that we will of course involve the children themselves in this decision. We will ask them which friends they would like to stay with. It is certainly not our intention to separate good friendships and, of course the children will still be spending valuable time together out on the playground at break and lunch times. The children's responses will be taken into account when we decide the class lists and every child should have some close friends in their new class. Some children have friends in the parallel class and may request the opportunity to be with those friends.

We will be talking to the children over the next few days to explain the reasons behind the decision and to reassure the children of any worries they have. You will be informed of the classes before the end of term.

I hope this letter has explained the rationale behind our decision and provided you with some reassurance of the process. Letters will be sent out shortly stating which class your child(ren) will be in.

Please feel free to contact school if you want any further information.

Miss Jane Mee  
Head of School

