

Seghill First School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to give you advance notice about the organisation of classes and teaching groups for next year.

Our current class structure includes both single age classes and mixed age classes. Many first and primary schools in Northumberland and other local authorities have both single age and mixed age classes and have done so for many years.

As is often the case in our school, the number of children in each year group varies quite widely. The year groups and numbers for next school year from September 2019 look like this-

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
22	20	20	15	27	9	113

As I am sure that you can see, the number of children does not support six single age classes. As a result of this, we will be operating both single age and mixed age classes next year with a total of 5 classes. It is likely that some children who are taught in single age classes this year will be taught in mixed age teaching groups next year.

At this stage, we are still working on the details of how the teaching groups will be organised. We are fortunate to have highly skilled, experienced teachers in all year groups. Teachers plan to meet the needs of all pupils in each class, irrespective of the children's age within the class. Some children born in August are almost one year younger than their peers born in September, but their needs are still planned for by the teacher, depending on the children's knowledge, skills and ability within any given subject. Even within single age classes there can be quite a difference between the needs of the most and least able pupils.

The rationale for planning for mixed age classes will be exactly the same as planning for single age classes; teachers will plan to meet the needs of all pupils in their class, irrespective of their age, depending on the children's knowledge, skills and ability within any given subject.

If you have any ideas about how you think the classes should be organised, please let me know as we would welcome your input. Our focus will always be planning to meet the needs of all children within each class, irrespective of their age. We will write to you again over the coming months when plans have been formalised and agreed with governors.

Yours sincerely

Miss Chappell
Headteacher