

Dear Parents and Carers

### CLASSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

This year we are planning to mix the current Year R, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 as this allows them to have the best of both worlds at Hill View. The children will be able to get to know other children as they move through the school so that new friendships can be formed while existing friendships can be maintained. However, the school will have the discretion to review the make-up of all classes each year.

The Class Teachers know the children really well and will be working on class lists to ensure a good balance of: friendships; range of educational, social and personal needs; gender and maturity are represented in each class. The teachers will ask the children in their class to name some friends from their year group with whom they would like to be with. This will be taken into consideration when the teachers draw up the class lists.

If you have any requests or concerns regarding your child's class for next year please put this **in writing to me by 9am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024, [office@hillview.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:office@hillview.bournemouth.sch.uk)**. Your views and concerns are important and will be carefully considered when drawing up the classes. We cannot guarantee that all requests can be accommodated and as a school we have to take account of every child's need in the school but please be reassured that your views and concerns will be carefully considered when drawing up classes.

### Why do we mix classes?

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school.
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during the year and in key stages.
- To ensure the specific needs of children are met.
- To promote a greater sense of community in a large three-form entry primary school.

## How do we make these decisions?

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Leaders and the Headteacher.
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions and will consider and include children's views in the process.
- We will work in partnership with parents and carers over any concerns.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

## What about my child's friendships?

By mixing the classes our children will, over a period of several years, get to know their whole year group. There is nothing inherently wrong with the concept of a best friend, but by definition, they can exclude the formation of other positive friendships. By mixing the classes, our children will broaden their circle of friends and get used to making new friends and working with different groups of children. We believe that this will strengthen them individually and the sense of community within the school. Given that Hill View transition to at least eight different secondary schools, it is important that children have the opportunity to form new friends and do not become over reliant on a particular friend.

Children flourish as a result of making new friendships and being challenged by having different children to learn with. It is great to see children playing and working with each other across the year groups. Of course, a few children find making new friendships a challenge, but with the support from their teacher they successfully grow personally and socially.

Please remember to send all requests in writing to me by **9am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024** and unfortunately, we are not able to accept any late requests.

Yours sincerely



Victoria Buckland  
Headteacher