



STAPLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Executive Headteacher: Mr R Newman
Headteacher: Miss A Said

Class Organisation September 2020

Dear Parents,

Please find attached a letter naming your child's class for next year. As per last year and our school policy, the classes for September 2020 have been arranged by using the children's ages. This has worked extremely well for the past two years and ensures that the maturity range with each class is within one year. It is also the fairest and most transparent way to arrange the classes for a mixed year group school.

We hope that the following common questions will answer any questions you may have:

Q. How are the classes decided?

A. *It is clear that the most common, and also the most effective method, is to arrange classes based on pupils' age. So, for example, the straight Year 3 class contains the 30 youngest pupils with the oldest 15 Year 3 pupils making up the joint class with the 15 youngest year 4 pupils. The 30 oldest Year 4 pupils then form the straight Year 4 class. It is fully explained in the policy which is on our website. All of the current research suggests that this system has the most positive impact on pupils' learning.*

Q. What are the benefits of this model?

A. *The benefits are:*

- *It is clear, fair and transparent*
- *No children feel that they are in a "bottom" set*
- *All children in every class are within one year in age*
- *It is fair – all children will be in a mixed class every other year and a straight age class every other year*
- *It will be the same every year*

Q. What if my child is not in the same class as their friends?

A. *This is always a possibility with any model. The children are used to being mixed up and being in a different class gives pupils the opportunity to widen their friendship groups and prepares them well for secondary school. Some local schools mix their children every year for these very reasons. Children still have the same opportunity to socialise with their friends at playtimes and lunch time, as they do now.*

Q. Will there be any exceptions to the policy?

A. *Yes, but only for pupils who have Special Educational Needs, are looked after or are twins/triplets etc. and only in consultation with parents and school leaders, as set out in our policy. No other exceptions will be made, if parents feel they meet the criteria for an exception to the policy to be made they can set out their case in writing for the governors to consider.*

Q. Are the cut off dates set?

A. *No, due to the fact that the birth dates of the children within each year group will change year-on-year, the cut off points may change slightly.*

Thank you in advance for your support

L Hammond
Chair of Governors

A said
Headteacher

R Newman
Executive Headteacher