Ashby Hill Top Primary School

Beaumont Avenue, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2NF
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sylvie Newman

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Monday 18th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin planning for the next academic year, we would like to share some information about how classes are organised at Ashby Hill Top Primary School and explain the process we follow when placing children into classes.

We know that class placements are very important to families and that children can sometimes feel anxious about changes. Please be assured that a great deal of time, care, and professional discussion goes into every decision we make. Our priority is always to create classes where children feel supported and able to thrive both socially and academically.

Because we have an intake of 45 children in each year group, most pupils at Ashby Hill Top are taught in mixed-age classes. Organising these classes is a complex process which involves balancing a wide range of factors across the whole cohort.

It is important for families to understand that classes are not initially created based on friendship groups. The first stage of the process is to organise children by age in order to ensure balanced mixed-age classes across the year group. Once these initial groupings have been created, we then carefully review a range of additional factors before finalising classes.

These considerations include:

- Creating a fair balance of ages and genders
- Considering children's individual learning and pastoral needs
- Supporting pupils with SEND and any reasonable adjustments required
- Managing social dynamics and behavioural considerations
- Taking account of exceptional circumstances where appropriate

Following this process, we then review friendship requests to ensure that, wherever possible, every child is placed with at least one familiar peer. Children would only be moved between the initial age-based class groupings if they would otherwise have none of their requested friends within their class.

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We appreciate that friendships are very important to children and families. However, it is not possible to organise classes based solely on friendship groups or parental preference. Our responsibility is to make decisions that are in the best interests of all children across the year group and to ensure that classes remain balanced and effective learning environments for everyone.

As class-setting decisions are based on a range of confidential information, we are not always able to discuss the full reasons behind individual placements. We appreciate your understanding regarding this.
Our Class Setting Policy, which explains the process in more detail, is available on the school website. We hope this helps families to understand the many considerations involved in creating successful class groups each year.

We would also ask for your support in helping your child feel positive and confident about any upcoming class changes. Children are greatly influenced by the conversations they hear at home, and speaking positively about new classes, teachers, and opportunities can make a significant difference to how settled and secure they feel. While it is natural for children to feel some uncertainty about change, reassurance and encouragement from home helps build resilience, confidence, and excitement for the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. By working together, we can ensure that every child has a positive and successful transition into the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvie Newman
Headteacher

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