

Dear Parents / Carers

Class structure 2021 -2022

At Lakeside Primary Academy, single and mixed year group classes are a way of life. The school has a Pupil Admission Number of 45 though we tend to have fewer pupils in a year group than this. Generally we have a class and a bit per year group and when this is the case single year group classes are not possible.

Our pupils spend 7 years in the school: moving from their first year in Reception, through 2 years in Key Stage 1 (infants) and then 4 years in Key Stage 2 (juniors) before moving onto secondary school.

Key Stage 1 classes are limited to 30 pupils but the rule does not apply to Key Stage 2 classes where pupils are generally more independent and require less adult support in their lessons. It is important to note that the organisation of classes may vary from year to year in order to accommodate the differing numbers in each year groups.

Our children work in 9 classes arranged as following for the 2021/22 academic year:

• Reception : Team Willow	taught by Mrs Hadfield and Miss Pillinger	23 children
• Reception and Year 1 : Team Fir	taught by Mrs Pullan	20 children (8 Reception & 12 Y1)
• Year 1 : Team Sycamore	taught by Mrs Wade and Miss Wilson	24 children
• Year 2 : Team Oak class	taught by Miss Beaumont	26 children
• Year 3 : Team Hazel class	taught by Mr Brown and Mrs Saxton	21 children
• Year 3 : Team Beech class	taught by Miss Bruce	20 children
• Year 4 : Team Chestnut	taught by Mr Walsh	31 children
• Year 5 : Team Maple class	taught by Miss Hunter and Miss Bamford	24 children
• Year 6: Team Elder class	taught by Mrs Wakeley	32 children

The use of classroom space has been reconfigured to allow the two Reception classes to work alongside each other more easily and they will access a shared inside and outside area. The Year 1 children in the Sycamore class will also have access to a shared outside area.

Will my child make progress if they are in a class with younger pupils?

Pupils who remain in the same class for more than one year are not taught the same things over again, nor do we have any different expectations for them in terms of their academic progress and attainment.

We assess the progress of pupils against the national expectations of pupils in each year group, irrespective of which class they are in. We know from analysing several years of data that pupils who in the same year group but in different classes make the same progress in younger and older classes.

There is always a range of children's ability in every class and teachers focus on what each child knows, what they can already do and what they need to be taught next. You can help to support your child as they learn the key year group expectations and these can be found on the website.

Will staying in the same class affect my child's confidence?

Sometimes children can be disappointed that they are staying in the same class without some of their friends but we have always noted that there are advantages too. Pupils often grow in confidence when they become one of the eldest in the class. They can show the new children in the class how things are done and become role models for them. They learn to make new friends and still play with their old friends at playtimes and lunchtimes.

How does the school decide which children should go into each class?

Our class lists are given very careful consideration. We make a wholehearted attempt to do what is best for every child within our care.

During the summer term class lists are finalised for the following academic year. All of the school's teachers, including the school's senior leaders, carefully review the class lists for the next academic year. Many factors are considered in these discussions, such as friendship groups and learning styles. Age is considered but greater emphasis is placed on the needs of every individual child. Every decision is made while keeping in mind the fact that the development of the child is of paramount importance.

The final decisions about class lists are therefore based upon our thorough and accurate professional observations and understandings of every child's abilities (both academic and social).

The overall goal is to balance the needs of *all the children*, and staff, in the school in the best possible way.

When are children and parents told about their new classes?

We understand that pupils and their parents want to know about their new class as soon as possible. Admissions for each year group are not finalised until the end of June, at which time we work out who will be in each class and let everyone know in time in July. For children moving in Reception we will liaise with their Early Years settings as appropriate.

For pupils moving into Year 1 where there will be mixed aged classes, and Year 3 where the year group is being split I have attached a link to a nomination form for you to complete in consultation with your child. We will endeavour to ensure that at least one of the names appears on the same class list as your son or daughter. We make no guarantees other than we will try to ensure there is one familiar face. Please try to remain positive in front of your child and talk up the benefits of meeting new people whilst emphasising they will only ever be a short time away from seeing their current best friend at playtime.

Please complete the online form by **Friday 18th June 2021 12pm**

Link <https://forms.gle/BQMseiYrMU5VKGdAA>

The form will close at this point to allow us to organise the classes and we will be unable to consider any requests after this.

If there is any further information that I should be aware of when looking at class organisation please can it be sent into school in writing by **Friday 18th June 2021 12pm**

Thank you also for your continued support.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Hayes-Smith'.

Helen Hayes-Smith