

Earls Barton Primary School

Broad Street
Northampton
NN6 0ND

Telephone: 01604 810371

Website: www.earlsbartonprimary.org.uk

Head teacher: Mrs P D Shacklady

Monday, 23 April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Class structure for September 2018

As you may be aware our intake is set at 75 children per year group which equates to 2.5 classes of 30 children. Once in KS2 this number can be exceeded but we do try to avoid numbers in a class becoming too great. It has been some years now since numbers have been low enough to have a 2 form entry running through the school and we have had to make some difficult decisions on how to arrange our classes in order to keep on budget, and, as I'm sure you will have heard in the news, school budgets are being reduced nationally. Our budget is dependent on the number of children on roll on the October census.

We acknowledge that, since the new national curriculum was launched, mixed age classes have presented more of a challenge for teachers to plan for. This is because each year group now has its own set of specific curriculum statements for children to achieve age related expectations. That said, our staff have ensured children are well planned for and are experiencing an engaging and progressive curriculum.

We have two options to put forward to you for the next academic year and would appreciate you giving us your feedback.

Option 1

We could continue with the current model of mixed age classes for years 3/4 and for years 1/2. In addition we would have an additional class in year 6 to take the high numbers we have moving up from year 5.

Option 2

The class structure for next academic year could be:

3 x EYFS classes (assuming admission numbers are in excess of 60 children)

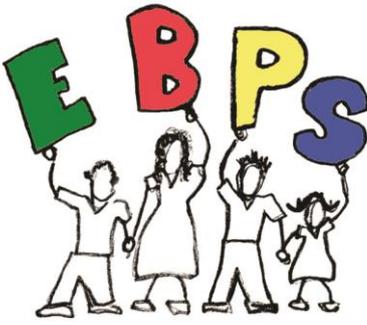
2 x year 1 classes

1 x mixed Y1/2 class

2 x year 2 classes

2 x year 3 classes

1 x mixed Y3/4 class



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2 x year 4 classes

3 x Y5 classes

3 x Y6 classes

The mixed classes would be formed of 50% from each year group and would be on the criteria of age alone i.e. the Y1/2 class would be made up of those older year 1 children and the younger year 2 children regardless of ability or gender. The teacher of the mixed age class would plan alongside the appropriate year group team that would ensure the learning theme is different to the one the older children in the class have experienced this year. They would then further differentiate their teaching and activities to fully meet the learning abilities of the children in their class. The following year they would plan alongside the opposite year group team so that once again the learning themes are fresh for the children. Those children who would be in these mixed age classes are: a child moving into year 1 or year 3 who has a birthday in September or October and possibly even the start of November; a child moving into year 2 or year 4 and who has a birthday in July or August and possibly even late June.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further before letting us know your preferred option then senior leaders will be available to talk to you on Friday 27 April 9 – 9.30am. in the KS2 hall. Alternatively please contact the school directly by telephone or email with your query.

Please complete the attached slip and return to the school office by 10am on Friday 4 May.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Shacklady
Headteacher



Name and class of child (optional).....

Preferred option (please tick one box as appropriate):

Option 1 Option 2 No preference