

King Edwin Primary School



Head Teacher Mr Callaghan-Wetton
Fourth Avenue, Edwinstowe, Notts, NG21 9NS
Tel: (01623) 822111 Fax: (01623) 825707
E Mail: office@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk
Website: www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk

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Further explanation of class changes

Dear parents and carers,

Following our review of the Year 4 classes and the mixing of children as they move to year 5, I'd like to add further explanation of the decisions made. We understand the concerns that are often attached to such a change - hopefully this communication goes some way to easing such concerns.

It is important that all parents understand that we cannot discuss the specific implications or needs of individual children in the group as this would breach confidentiality and it is not appropriate to do so. Ultimately, we need parents to respect the professional decisions made in the best interests of our children.

Many schools mix classes every year, often to balance out groups where some friendship mixes or perhaps personality clashes require addressing. Sometimes it's best to keep specific children together with at least some of their friends although there is also the added factor where perhaps friendships are not entirely positive within the group.

At KEPS, we always look at each year group in its own right before making a decision such as this. We do not make these decisions without considering the impact. In this particular case ...we feel that it is very much needed in the best interests of the whole year group.

After discussions with our senior leadership team, class teachers and the SEND leaders, we decided that mixing the Year 4 classes was required with the intention of achieving the following outcomes:

- Re-grouping the children will not only enable children to develop new friendship groups but we will also be able to make sure that we cater for the spread of learning needs across the year group
- For our Year 5 children, this mix will also support them with their transition to secondary school by ensuring that they have had the experience of being with different children, building new friendships in a familiar classroom setting (our children typically feed in to 5 secondary schools in Year 7)
- Any negative behaviour or emotional dynamics at play will be addressed by the mixing of the group
- All gender, ability, attitude and learning behaviour imbalances will be addressed within the move
- We can consider more carefully the impact of new children that have entered the year group over the years (6 since 2020) and make the two groups more 'harmonious' in terms of their learning relationships

Essentially we want to maximise the opportunities for our children to achieve their best at school. The changes are aimed at supporting this aim.



Both current and new class teachers have all played a significant role in creating the new classes, as have previous teachers, senior leaders and support staff. They fully understand the needs of the year group and what would help the children in September.

For obvious reasons of confidentiality we cannot delve into every reason or incident that leads up to such a move and I'm sure every parent can respect this. I simply ask that parents continue to trust us and the fact that we want our KingEdwinners to be in the best classroom environment with the best mix of children possible to help the whole group flourish.

I fully appreciate the uncertainty or concern regarding change that this decision brings. I must refer to my own son's school in an attempt to add further understanding around how common this all is. My son attends a school that changes their class groupings every year (like many two form entry schools across Nottinghamshire). He will move in September from a pure year 4 class to a mixed year 5 /6 class without his best mate and with a new recently qualified teacher. It's worth adding that he's also quite an anxious child and the SENCO will have been very aware of this when supporting and considering the mix of children.

You can't get a much bigger change than all of that but I trust the teachers and my sons school to have made the right choice for him and indeed everyone in his year group. He won't be the most important person on their mind when making those decisions but he will have been considered and I know that his opportunities will be positively impacted upon due to the schools decisions.

I truly hope that our parents can trust us on this one and understand that we are humble enough to rethink some elements of the decision if there is a need ... but only after we allow the dust to settle and the children try out their new classes in September. Let's all remember too that they will see each other every break time, lunch , assembly and at any whole year group activity of which we have plenty of!

Regrettably, the timing of the information sharing is not what we would have wanted. Isolation and a change in government timelines has prevented us from meeting with parents to explain decisions more fully. For this, I apologise. Hopefully the details of this letter help to explain and reassure parents following the changes.

Kind regards,

Mr Callaghan Wetton

