Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Autumn Term Parent Forum meeting will take place on **Tuesday 20th October 2026**. Please send any responses on our focus area to your Parent Forum Reps by **Tuesday 13th October 2026.**

Focussed point for the meeting - mixing of classes

Following our decision to start mixing classes from September 2027, we invite you, at parent forum, to give feedback to us on how we go about implementing this change to ensure it is successful.

Our Proposal to You

Our aim is to allow pupils within each year group to form strong bonds and friendships with as many children as possible in the course of their school life. We feel that a shuffle (mixing) of the children in the classes at the end of Ducklings, Year 2 and Year 4 will develop children's relationships with their peers, allow them the opportunity to build a broader friendship group and strengthen resilience to change in a comfortable, safe environment.
In order to ensure a balanced mix of children in both classes, the classes will be mixed in consultation with Senior Leaders, current and previous class teachers.
We will consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions.
We will consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups. We will look at the additional needs of children, such as Special Educational Needs, behaviour, English as an Additional Language and Social and Emotional needs.
We will look at the gender split of classes and ensure an even mix of children from both classes to make the new groupings, so your child will still be with around 50% of their current class.
We will observe the proposed new classes engaging in an activity together, before making any changes and finalising names.
Children across the year group will still have the opportunity to play together at break and also to sit and play together at lunch.
As always, there will be a detailed handover between current and new class teacher(s) where academic and social characteristics are discussed.

We previously discussed the mixing of classes with the parent forum in 2023. Here is a summary of the discussion:

There was a balanced split, among parents, between the mixing of classes and leaving classes exactly as they are.

Reasons given for mixing were all about the opportunities that it could provide for the children: the chance to make new friends; change in a safe environment and children being taught to cope with this and adapt; preparation for the future where change is inevitable; learning to get on with new people and resilience. Many felt that leaving it until later in their school journey was too late and possibly more unsettling than doing it earlier.

Reasons given against mixing were that some children may find it challenging to come back in September to a new class; the fear of lost friendships; the change being unsettling; a break in continuity; some felt that it was enough to mix for the forest school rotation and then for a few lessons in year 5 and 6.

Please give your feedback to your parent forum reps to answer these questions:

- What benefits would you like to see or do you see in the mixing of classes?
- What are your concerns around mixing classes?
- How do you think the children should have a say in how it happens?

General comments

If you wish to make general comments please also submit these to your parent forum rep. If the general comments relate to a specific incident or are comments about your child's academic progress, please contact your class teacher in the first instance (in line with our Home / School Communication Policy) rather than through the Parent Forum.

Kind regards,
Bridgewater Primary School