Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

Bridgewater Primary School
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November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Class Mixing – Update Following Parent Forum Meeting

We are writing to update you on the decisions made regarding the mixing of classes, following our recent Parent Forum meeting. You may recall that we informed you in the summer term 2026 that we would be mixing classes from September 2027.

At our recent Parent Forum meeting, we carefully considered the feedback submitted by parents, alongside the views shared by parent representatives on the evening. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to contribute their thoughts and concerns.

Having considered all the feedback, particularly that shared by parents of children in Year 4, we have decided **not to mix the current Year 4 cohort as they enter Year 5 in September 2027**. This decision takes into account the specific context of this year group and the individual needs within it.

Instead, we will begin mixing classes for the current Year 2 (as they enter Year 3) from September 2027. Moving forward, our intention is to mix classes at the end of Years 2 and 4 as children progress through the school.

We recognise that class mixing is an important matter for families, and we appreciate the time and thought parents have given to this discussion. We have now agreed how we will mix classes in future at Bridgewater.

Our next step will be to develop a clear **Class Mixing Policy**, which will set out the principles and processes that guide our decisions. This policy will be shared with stakeholders to ensure that our approach is transparent, consistent and centred on the needs of our children.

Please see **Appendix 1 which** addresses some of the key questions raised at the Parent Forum meeting and provides further clarification about how classes will be mixed.

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify some concerns that were raised regarding our reference to an earlier Parent Forum consultation, which took place in the summer of 2023. The initial purpose of this consultation had been to discuss whether or not children in Year 6 should be mixed. During the meeting, the discussion broadened to include the mixing of all year groups. We hope this clarifies the context of the original consultation and apologise for any confusion caused.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to share your views with us. We remain committed to making decisions that support the wellbeing, learning and development of all our children.

Any questions about the mixing of classes can be directed to Mrs Alexander, sarah.alexander@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk

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Appendix 1

Children's involvement in mixing classes

We intend asking children to create a list of friends with whom they would like to stay. Children will be asked to complete this at home with their parents rather than in school. We will then ask opinions of current teachers and ensure that all children remain with some of the friends they have chosen.

Will the classes be mixed by ability/needs/other factors?

We will consider all factors when mixing the classes including gender, summer born, academic data, friendships and any additional needs. Our aim would be to balance both classes.

What would the timings look like?

We will develop a policy that we will share with parents in the spring term of 2027. This will outline the final timings but we would hope to start the process of asking children early in the summer term. Children and parents would find out their new classes on the Monday of transition week. Children will find out via a letter to parents rather than finding out in school. We would then arrange for children to spend some time with their new classes during the last 2 weeks of the summer term.

How will children be supported?

We will use PSHE lessons to discuss this with the children involved. We will support any SEN children that may need additional support with transition booklets.