

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

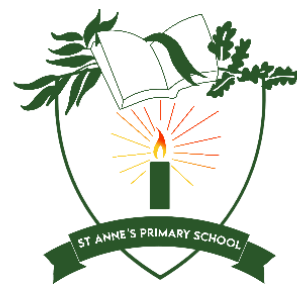
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Headteacher: Mrs C Martin



Friday 5th June 2026

Dear Parents,

Mixed Class Group Transition

Each year, the Leadership Team carefully considers the dynamics of each year group and evaluates whether a mixed-class transition would benefit the children. We did a whole school mix up last year and seen real benefits from it this year and therefore we have decided that some year groups will be mixed again this year.

We are writing to inform you that the current EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 have been selected for a mixed-class transition for September 2026.

Over the coming weeks, our staff will be working thoughtfully to consider each child's unique needs and the best possible learning environment for them. To create a balanced, supportive atmosphere where all children can thrive, we will be using our professional judgment to group students accordingly. We will not be requesting friendship lists, as no matter how we ask the children and parents to complete this confidentially, it never is and it upsets more children when no one chooses them. Instead, we will rely on our teachers' professional judgment to ensure the right balance of learning, social and emotional needs in each class.

We understand that the friendship aspect is important to both children and parents. If you feel there is a genuine need for your child to stay with a particular classmate, we encourage you to speak directly with your child's class teacher. Please understand that while we will do our best to accommodate such requests, we cannot guarantee specific placements due to the need for balance across the classes. The key thing to remember is that the classroom is first and foremost a place for learning, and our priority is always to create the best possible learning environment for every child; there will continue to be plenty of opportunities for children to spend time and play with their friends during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

We appreciate your support and understanding. Therefore, we have included a list of transition dates when the children will work within their new class sets. I strongly encourage you to share this information with your children in a positive manner. Children often take their cues from the adults around them, so when changes are presented positively and confidently, they are much more likely to feel reassured, excited, and ready to embrace new opportunities.

Monday 22nd June- Children informed of new class.

Wednesday 24th June- Transition session 1

Monday 29th June- Transition session 2

Wednesday 1st July- Transition session 3

Monday 6th July- Transition session 4

Wednesday 8th July- Transition session 5

Friday 10th July- Transition session 6

Thursday 16th July- Transition session 7

Other opportunities will take place throughout the coming weeks at year group events.

Below, we have provided a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to help address any concerns you may have.

God bless,



Mrs C Martin

FAQs

What are the benefits for mixing classes, especially for the children?

- Good preparation for secondary school where children are often mixed
- Children get the opportunity to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- Better resilience in developing friendships in a safe, comfortable environment
- Familiarity with change
- Being part of a year group team and not just a class
- Strengthening our whole school community as families will also have the opportunity to develop relationships with other families within the year group

How is this managed at St Anne's?

The Leadership Team will work closely with the current class teachers and the Year Leader to help organise children into new classes.

There are many factors we will consider, including but not limited to:

- Best interests of the children
- Meeting all learners' needs
- Range of educational, social and emotional needs
- Teacher's views on friendships within the classroom.
- Who would work well as a learning group
- Gender balance

How will we as a school prepare the children?

We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when we make decisions. We will talk to the children about mixing up the year group next year, encouraging them to share any worries and anxieties with their class teacher. We will also remind the children that they will still see their old classmates on the playground and at lunch.

As a year group is preparing to be mixed, we will introduce them to their new class through mixing groups on school trips, carousel activities in school and other year group events such as Fun Sports PE sessions and wellbeing activities. Time will also be built in for transition lessons so that children can familiarise themselves with their new class group before September.

Is there a specific 'criteria' for selecting year groups for this transition?

There is no set criteria - this is a decision based on the school's professional judgement. Please remember that the class teacher sees the dynamics of a whole class. Here is a flavour of the kinds of factors that influence our thinking:

- The distribution of additional needs (and associated adult support) across the year group
- The healthy combination of higher, lower and average attaining pupils
- The levels of confidence, independence and resilience in each class
- The range of pastoral needs (this also includes factors such as safeguarding concerns, pupil premium, young carers)
- The importance of encouraging a wider circle of friends

Some parents have also asked why, if the benefits are so numerous, this change won't be occurring to every cohort, every year.

From previous experience, and the benefits we have seen in this change, we are suggesting that, at some point during their primary school journey, it is healthy and appropriate for children to encounter this level of change. It is about striking the right balance: we believe children need exposure to change but that this should be purposefully planned and prepared for.

If mixing classes has benefits, why are we not reorganising every year group?

While we recognise the advantages of mixing classes, we also carefully consider what is best for each year group at a particular point in time. Decisions are made based on factors such as cohort size, pupil needs, stability, and how well current class structures are supporting learning and wellbeing.

In some year groups, existing classes are already well-balanced and settled, and maintaining continuity provides important stability - particularly where pupils are thriving socially and academically. In others, mixing classes offers clear benefits that support both learning and relationships.

Our approach is therefore tailored rather than uniform. By making considered decisions for each year group, we aim to strike the right balance between stability and opportunity, always with the best interests of our pupils at the centre.