

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

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**'Christ at the
Centre'**



6th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Mixed Year R and Year 1 Class from September

I am writing to inform you of an upcoming change to the structure of our Early Years and Year 1 provision at St Peter's Catholic Primary School. From September, we will be moving to three mixed Year R and Year 1 classes.

Why this change?

This decision has been made in response to lower birth rates nationally. While we remain a popular choice in Winchester, our intakes are decreasing. This means 3 classes instead of 4 across Year R and 1. With fewer children, this new structure will allow us to maintain class sizes and ensure all children receive the attention, education and support they need.

What will this mean for my child?

Children are at the centre of all we do here at St Peter's. Our experienced teachers are already designing an engaging and purposeful curriculum which meets the Year 1 National Curriculum objectives/Year R educational programmes. September Year 1 children will benefit from being with familiar adults which will ease transitions and continue strong relationships. Our new Year R children will benefit from older children modelling and helping them settle quickly into school life building their confidence.

Will my child, who will be Year 1, move classroom and teacher?

Each year at St Peter's we adjust and mix the classes based on balancing academic ability, personalities and friendships. Your child's current teacher will be thinking carefully about these and creating new classes which will allow your child to thrive. We will be using the current Year 1 classrooms and the Turtle room for our new Year R/1 rooms. This means that many children will likely move room and teacher in September. This new arrangement means we now have an additional classroom which will allow us flexibility.

What will their learning look like?

Our approach in how we teach younger children is remaining the same, all children will have high quality teacher input from experienced staff. The teachers leading each class will be Mrs Tuft (EYFS lead), Mr Read (KS1 lead) and Mrs Bradbury. Children will be expected to work with adults in directed tasks which will be linked to the curriculum children need. We will be continuing COOL (Choose your own learning) time for both year groups for children to explore concepts, grow independence, collaborate with their peers and consolidate their learning. Adults will be supporting



and challenging children in their play, giving personalised next steps. Regular assessments will allow teachers to adapt learning and challenge children so they are ready for the next stage of their educational journey.

We want to reassure you that mixed-age classes are a common and successful practice in many schools across the country. We understand that change can raise questions, and we are committed to supporting both children and families through this transition. We will be holding an information session on **Tuesday 10th June** from 6pm where you will be able to hear more about how the class will be structured and ask any questions you may have.

At St Peter's, our priority remains providing a caring, high-quality education that meets the needs of every child. We are confident that this new arrangement will allow us to continue doing just that.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely



Louise Buxton

Headteacher

