



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

### INFORMATION REGARDING CLASS STRUCTURES & CURRICULUM FOR SEPTEMBER – Years 1-4

As we move closer to the start of the new academic year, I thought it would be useful to share some information about how the curriculum will be delivered now that we are reincorporating some mixed age classes into our school structure.

As you already know, alongside our other classes, we will have a mixed Year 1&2 class and a Year 3&4 class. The National Curriculum complements this class structure nicely as, for most subjects, it is organised into Key Stage 1 (Y1/2), Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4) and Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6) objectives rather than organised into individual year groups. This means that we can adopt a two-year rolling program of topics which enables children to cover all of the relevant content across the course of two years. This is the approach adopted by the vast majority of schools with mixed age classes.

Our approach to maths lessons will be slightly different as this is the one subject that assigns specific content to individual year groups. We currently use the White Rose Maths scheme and will continue to do so as we are purchasing their mixed age planning scheme with complementing resources. This means that when we teach a topic in maths to the class, such as fractions, each lesson will have opportunities for both year groups to be introduced to their individual objective and activities relevant to their specific year group on this topic. This is all blended into one lesson and will also provide further opportunities for support / challenge as needed. Teaching assistant staff will also be used as needed to provide additional support across the year groups for the different maths topics. White Rose Maths is an award winning, research-based scheme that is nationally available and is utilised by thousands of schools across the country.

Although we have a long history of mixed age classes at High Hesket CE School, we have been liaising with other schools in our cluster to look at different approaches in relation to mixed age teaching and the staff have recently visited some settings with similar arrangements to share the most up to date ideas and good practice. We will also be deploying our teaching assistant staff across the school in ways to maximise their experience and to support the children in the best possible way. This may be to support the delivery of certain areas of the curriculum within the classroom, such as with maths. Alternatively, they may work with small groups or individuals outside of the classroom as required.

I am aware that the combining of different year groups does inevitably result in larger class sizes than you may have recently experienced. However, it is worth noting that, even in very recent times such as with last year's Year 6 cohort, we have had many classes of similar sizes to those we will have in September. I would like to reassure you that class size will not affect the quality of the teaching or learning and we will continue, as we do now, to be continually monitoring and assessing the learning taking place and adapting approaches as needed.

I hope this provides an overview of how the curriculum will be delivered across the different classes and our new mixed age curriculum plans will be published on our school website from September. As always, I would encourage anyone with any further queries to get in touch as I am more than happy to chat things through in more detail prior to the start of the new year. Similarly, I also welcome any questions that may arise once term gets underway in September so please do get in touch if you would like to arrange a conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey  
Headteacher