

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we are beginning to plan for the next school year. Part of our preparation involves the thoughtful consideration of class placements for all students. To create a balanced and positive learning environment, we will be mixing the current year 3 and 5 classes for next academic year (from September 2026).

The primary rationale behind this decision is to address the imbalance that has been observed among the classes. Imbalance refers to the uneven distribution of students with regard to various factors, such as academic abilities, social dynamics, and special educational needs.

It is important to note that the decision to mix classes has been made after careful consideration of several factors, including input from our teaching staff and observations of classroom dynamics.

We understand the importance of social connections and want to ensure that each child feels comfortable and supported in their new class. To help us with this process, we are inviting each student to write down the names of two peers they would like to be with in their new class next year. While we cannot guarantee that all requests will be fulfilled, we will make every effort to honour at least one of the choices each student makes.

Your child will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates on Thursday 25th June, during our planned transition activities.

To help answer any questions you may have, we have prepared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which can be found at the end of this letter.


A copy of this letter and the FAQ can be found on our school website at the following link:
<https://www.withamoaksacademy.co.uk/useful-information/>

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Sheehan



Mrs M. Harrington

Mixing Classes – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will my child still be in a class with their friends?

When we make the decision to mix a year group, we ask each child to name a group of friends they would like to stay with. These responses are carefully considered when we form new classes. In many cases, children already have friends across both classes and some even request the opportunity to work with peers in the other class.

2. How will you decide on the new class groupings?

We will consider a range of factors to ensure a balanced and supportive mix:

- Children's friendship preferences
- Teachers' professional knowledge of friendships and dynamics
- Academic strengths and needs
- Gender balance

3. What are the benefits for the children?

- Developing resilience by forming new friendships in a safe, supportive environment
- Broadening social and working relationships
- Fostering a stronger sense of being part of the whole year group, not just one class
- Creating balanced working groups that support peer learning

4. What are the benefits for the school?

- Reinforcing positive attitudes to learning
- Promoting resilience and adaptability in new settings
- Enhancing the school's ability to group pupils effectively, leading to improved academic outcomes

5. What if my child is unhappy in their new class?

Our priority is always children's wellbeing. While class changes are unlikely once groups are finalised, we are fully committed to supporting children through the transition. This includes pastoral support, confidence-building, and structured opportunities to form new friendships—such as team-building games and small-group work. Every child is different, so please speak to the class teacher if you have concerns. We'll monitor closely and work with you to help your child settle.

6. How will children with SEND be supported?

We are putting in place detailed transition arrangements, led by our skilled support staff, class teachers and SENCo. Support will be tailored to each child's needs. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to get to know their new classmates, with additional support where needed to help them feel confident and secure.

7. Will there be an equal mix of ability in each class?

Yes. Each class will have a balanced mix of abilities. Children benefit greatly from learning alongside a diverse range of peers and research shows that they learn particularly well by supporting one another.

8. I have more questions – where should I send them?

We're here to help. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the school. If we notice common questions being raised, we will update this FAQ document. Open and ongoing communication is really important to us—please don't hesitate to get in touch.

9. Will this happen every year?

We review the composition of each year group annually. In some cases, we may decide to keep classes as they are if they are well balanced; in others, we may mix them again if it benefits the children. Each decision will be based on what we believe is best for the children in that particular cohort.



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