



Christ Church Hanham C of E VC Primary School

Nurture with love ~ Grow through knowledge and wisdom ~ Flourish in hope



School & College Member

Memorial Road, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3LA

01454 867145

Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner

Friday 13 June 2025

Class organisation and return to single-age classes

Dear Families,

As you will be aware, as a result of low pupil numbers and the associated impact upon our budget, since September 2022, we have organised some of our year groups into mixed-age classes. Whilst this decision was predominantly driven by financial viability, we worked extremely hard to adapt our curriculum and provision to ensure that this structural change did not have any negative impact upon learning and standards. We are extremely proud of how the children in these classes adapted and formed new relationships with children from different year groups. We are also proud of the progress the children have made- socially, emotionally and academically.

We had planned to maintain the three mixed-age classes until they reached the end of their primary school journey. However, due to some unforeseen changes in our pupil numbers in key stage one, (where class sizes are legally not allowed to exceed 30 pupils), and the fact that two of these classes will now be fully in key stage two, (where the limit of 30 pupils does not apply), we are able to return to single-age classes ahead of schedule. This is especially impactful for those pupils about to enter the final two years of primary school as it means we can now continue to operate straight Year 5 and 6 classes rather than a mixed Y5/6 class. This does mean that some key stage 2 classes may exceed 30 children but, where this is the case, we will have a maximum cap of 32 children per class.

We know that you will share our view that it would be prudent and sensible to return to teaching single-age classes now that the opportunity has presented itself.

This means that from September 2025, children will re-join their year group peers. There will be 9 classes organised as below:

Year Group	Class names September 2025	Current organisation
EYFS	Julia Donaldson	New cohort
Year 1	Oliver Jeffers	Current Julia Donaldson Class
Year 2	Emily Gravett	Current Jill Murphy Class plus Year 1s from current Oliver Jeffers Class
Year 3	Cressida Cowell	Year 2s from current Oliver Jeffers Class plus Year 2s from current Emily Gravett Class
Year 4	Michael Morpurgo	Year 3s from current Emily Gravett Class plus Year 3s from current Cressida Cowell Class
Year 5	Berlie Doherty	Two new classes formed from Y4s in current Cressida Cowell Class and current Michael Morpurgo Class
	Benjamin Zephaniah	
Year 6	Malorie Blackman	Current Benjamin Zephaniah Class
	William Shakespeare	Current Berlie Doherty Class

✉ Office@christchurchhanham.org.uk

🐦 [@CCHPri](https://twitter.com/CCHPri)

🌐 www.christchurchhanhamprimaryschool.co.uk



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024





Christ Church Hanham C of E VC Primary School

Nurture with love ~ Grow through knowledge and wisdom ~ Flourish in hope

For our current Year 4 pupils, we will be forming them into two new classes so that there is a better balance of gender, attainment and additional need. To support us in the reorganisation, we are asking that each child completes the 'Friendship Form' via this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/p9pR99J9nK>

- Please ask your child to write down **the names of five friends** from the Year 4 cohort who they would like to be in the same class with, in September.
- There is no ranking system so each name recorded will be considered equally.
- The Friendship Form must be completed by Friday 20th June.

Once we have received the completed forms, the current Year 4 team will meet with myself and Miss Weldrake to decide the new classes. **We will consider each child's responses and ensure that they have at least one chosen friend in their class next year.** Your child's new class will be shared with you ahead of our first transition date on 2nd July 2025.

Whilst we acknowledge that, for the pupils already in mixed-age classes, this is another change, we know that our children are resilient and trust that the staff in school will nurture and care for them. We will ensure that our transition programme for this term includes dedicated time for the classes who are re-joining as single-aged classes to focus on reconnecting, sharing strengths and building new relationships within their new class families.

As with all organisational and educational matters, this is a school decision. The decision to return to single-age classes at the earliest opportunity allows us to continue to focus on ensuring our curriculum and teaching is fine-tuned to the need of our pupils. For our pupils with additional needs, it will also reduce the amount of transitions during the day as they will no longer need to change classes for afternoon curriculum sessions.

Our mixed-age classes were only ever a temporary measure, needed for just three classes, due to our pupil numbers. Now that our pupil numbers no longer require us to have mixed classes, we believe that it is right that we return pupils to their chronological year groups. We are confident that this decision is in the best interests of all of our pupils and for us as a school family, meaning that our new structure can now remain in place as we fully reduce to a one-form entry school of 7 classes in September 2027.

Please use this information to have a positive conversation with your child/ children if they are currently in a mixed-age class. Our vision is focussed on ensuring that each and every one of our pupils is given the best possible opportunity to grow and flourish. This has always been, and will continue to be, our key priority regardless of class organisation. We know that you will support us as we make these final changes in returning to single-age classes and continue to put your trust in us as a school to do what is right for our school family.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours faithfully,

Neil McKellar-Turner
Headteacher



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024

