

Dear Parents and Carers

This year we are planning to mix the current *Year R, Year 3 and Year 4* as this allows them to have the best of both worlds at Hill View. The children will be able to get to know other children as they move through the school so that new friendships can be formed while existing friendships can be maintained. However, the school will have the discretion to review the make-up of all classes each year.

As part of our careful planning for classes next year, staff will be considering a wide range of factors to ensure each child is placed in the most supportive learning environment possible.

The Class Teachers know the children really well and will be working on class lists to ensure a good balance of: friendships; range of educational, social and personal needs; gender and maturity are represented in each class. The teachers will ask the children in their class to name some friends from their year group with whom they would like to be with. This will be taken into consideration when the teachers draw up the class lists.

If there are **significant concerns** you feel the school should be aware of regarding your child for next year, please put these **in writing** to me by **Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 9am, email address: reception@hillviewacademy.org**

While we are happy to take account of necessary information, **requests for friendship groups cannot be guaranteed**, and the school must carefully balance the needs of all children across the year group. Please be reassured that each child's placement is thoughtfully considered by staff who know them well, with their academic progress, well-being and relationships at the forefront of our decisions

Why do we mix classes?

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school.
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during the year and in key stages.
- To ensure the specific needs of children are met.
- To promote a greater sense of community in a large three-form entry primary school.

What about my child's friendships?

By mixing the classes our children will, over a period of several years, get to know their whole year group. There is nothing inherently wrong with the concept of a best friend, but by definition, they can exclude the formation of other positive friendships. By mixing the classes, our children will broaden their circle of friends and get used to making new friends and working with different groups of children. We believe that this will strengthen them individually and the sense of community within the school. Given that Hill View transition to at least eight different secondary schools, it is important that children have the opportunity to form new friends and do not become over reliant on a particular friend.

Children flourish as a result of making new friendships and being challenged by having different children to learn with. It is great to see children playing and working with each other across the year groups. Of course, a few children find making new friendships a challenge, but with the support from their teacher they successfully grow personally and socially.

Please remember to send all requests in writing to me by **9am on Wednesday 22nd April 2026** and unfortunately, we are not able to accept any late requests.

Yours sincerely



Victoria Buckland
Headteacher