



Courthill Infant School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Carter



13th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

We are currently reviewing our arrangements for the children for the next academic year, including how class groups will be arranged for next year.

I am sure you will appreciate that organising children into their new classes is complicated and never easy. This is due to the considerations, including: the balance of gender, academic and emotional needs; the balance of special and/or high needs of children in each class; whether there have been specific behaviour/friendship issues in classes; and so the list goes on. Another factor is that throughout the academic year, we have children leaving us and others joining us. In these circumstances, children have to be placed where there are spaces and this again can also affect the 'balance' of a class. So, although the classes that are set at the start of the year may seem very well-balanced, this can change as the year goes on.

At Courthill, we endeavour to keep classes together if that is the most beneficial thing to do for the children. However, over the years we have had a range of practices including keeping some classes as they are as they transfer into a new year group, whilst splitting others to rebalance the class. Our decisions are based on extensive discussions with current teachers and the senior leadership team, as well as careful observation of the children in their current classes.

For Year Reception, the teaching team and senior leadership team have reviewed the current classes and we feel it is in the children's best interests to **keep Year Reception classes as they are**. If we have identified specific children who would benefit from a new class setting, you child's class teacher will discuss this with you.

This year we have decided it would be beneficial to **'split' the classes in Year One** and organise them into new classes ready for their transition into Year Two. We recognise that children have remained in their original classes from Reception into Year 1, and we have carefully balanced the importance of continuity with the benefits of giving children the opportunity to build new relationships. We have also received a small number of requests from parents asking us to consider changing classes this year so that children are not in the same group for three consecutive years. Taking all of these factors into account, we believe that reorganising the classes for Year 2 is the best decision for this cohort. We would like to reassure you that we review this decision carefully each year, and what is right for this group of children this year may not necessarily be the same approach taken in future years.

We want to ensure that this transition is smooth and positive, so we ask that you talk to your child about the exciting prospect of making new friends in new classes next academic year. We would also like your help to identify friends that your child would like to be with in their new class. Please **complete this online form ([Y1 Friend Choices for Y2 \(2026\) – Fill in form](#))** with your child to **identify three friends** they would like to be with next year. We will use this information, alongside the considerations outlined above, to organise the children into their new class groups. We will ensure that each child is with at least one friend from their list; however, please be aware that it **will not** be possible to guarantee all three choices. Please do this by **end of Wednesday 20th May**.

For our **Year Two** children, it is with a heavy heart that we have to say goodbye. These children will be sorted into new groups according to the school they are transferring to. We do this in liaison with the receiving junior schools. To help with this, please **complete this online form ([Y2 Friend Choices for Y3 \(2026\) – Fill in form](#))** with your child to **identify three friends** they would like to be with next year; we will share this with receiving junior schools. Please be



aware that we **will not** be able to guarantee that the children will be with all three friends. Please do this by **end of Wednesday 20th May**.

For all our current Year Reception and Year One children, you will receive information about your child's new class and teacher on Thursday 25th June, the day before **Transfer Day, which this is on Friday 26th June**. On this day, children get to experience a day in the new classes / schools that they will be in next academic year.

I hope this letter explains how we make these decisions. Please be assured that the needs and well-being of the children guides everything we do, and classes will only ever be split and mixed up if that proves to be in the best interests of the children.

Kind regards
Mrs Carter, Headteacher