



Dear Parents,

Re: Class structures for academic year 2026/2027

At Sale and Davys C.E. Primary School children have been taught in mixed age classes over many years. We take great pride in our approach to personalising learning for each and every child to ensure the curriculum matches their individual learning needs. This was recognised in our recent Ofsted Report with our 'Outstanding' judgement for Personal Development.

Due to National low birth rates all school pupil numbers are declining across the country. At Sale and Davys In September 2026 we will have 9 reception children joining the school. It is not a good use of school resources to have a class of 9 children in Merlin and a large class of 32 children in the year 5/6 class. Adjusting the class structures ensures that classes are better balanced in numbers of pupils and school resources are used most effectively to benefit all children.

In September Merlin Class will continue be taught by Mrs Pitt and Mrs Hetherington. In addition to this a full time TA will be supporting the class. Mrs Pitt and Mrs Hetherington are experienced teachers and have previously taught Reception and Year 1 mixed classes. A reception/Year 1 class is not a new class structure to Sale and Davys. The school has previous experience of managing the EYFS curriculum and the Year 1 curriculum within the same class. To help with this the hall will be allocated as an additional learning space for the class each morning. This will allow for more formal and specific teaching of maths, phonics, reading and writing for Year 1 children. The full Year 1 curriculum will be delivered to the children throughout the year and teaching will be adapted to meet the children's needs, as is the case in all mixed aged classes at Sale and Davys.

There are many benefits for the Year 1 children within this new class structure. It enables children to expand their friendship groups to the new Reception children. Both Reception and Year 1 children will be meeting up again in mixed aged classes moving up through the school. It enables year 1 children to be taught as a single Year group for English and maths in a dedicated space.

Confidence/ taking on more responsibilities/ learning to be more independent.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Briggs
Headteacher