



Ribby with Wrea Endowed C.E. Primary

Mixed Age Classes

S.Hargreaves Sept 2021
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Ribby with Wrea Endowed C.E. Primary School

Mission Statement

To encourage all children to develop as confident lifelong learners, to be curious about the world around them and to achieve their full potential within our safe and caring Christian school family.

Introduction

Ribby with Wrea is a smaller than average primary school, admitting 22 children each year into our Reception Class. With a school of 154 children (without children admitted on appeal) we organise these year groups into 5 mixed aged classes.

Mallard Class – Reception and Year 1

Robin Class – Year 1 and Year 2

Kingfisher Class – Year 2 and Year 3

Nightingale Class – Year 4 and Year 5

Eagle Class – Year 5 and Year 6

Due to building constraints we are not able to add any further classrooms and will always have mixed aged classes.

As a school we celebrate the opportunities that having mixed aged classes gives us and believe it is part of what makes our school unique.

Children who begin in Reception at Ribby with Wrea, are immersed in our mixed aged set up from the beginning of their school career and discussions around our class make up are held frequently and sensitively with the children to prepare them for their next stage.

Organisation of each class

With an intake of 22, it is necessary to place our Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 cohorts over two classes. In doing so we are bound by the Infant Class size rule, limiting the size of KS1 classes to no more than 30 children.

Reception, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 are taught as whole cohorts, learning alongside children from another year group in their class.

Mallard Class contains all of Reception (22 children) and one third of Year 1 (usually 8 children).

Robin Class contains two thirds of Year 1 (usually 14 children) and two thirds of Year 2 (usually 14 children).

Kingfisher Class contains one third of Year 2 (usually 8 children) and all of Year 3 (22 children).

Nightingale Class contains all of Year 4 (22 children) and half of Year 5 (usually 11 children).

Eagle Class contains half of Year 5 (usually 11 children) and all of Year 6 (22 children).

Four mornings a week we employ an additional teacher to teach English and Maths in Key Stage 2, reducing Nightingale and Eagle Class sizes for these lessons.

Rationale for deciding which class the children are in

The children are continuously monitored over the year and the teachers in discussion with the Senior Leadership team discuss the best class for each child towards the end of the academic year. A number of factors support our decision in which class to place each child and there is no weighting or hierarchy give to each factor. These include

- Academic ability
- Learning style
- Independence in classroom routines and completing tasks
- Maturity
- Self-esteem and self-confidence
- Gender mix and friendships

We are aware that some children will thrive with the challenge of working with children in a higher Year group, whilst for others this will be overwhelming and they are more comfortable working as part of the most able group in the class.

We have high expectations of all our children at Ribby with Wrea and just because they do not move into the next class, does not mean they are not working at age related expectations.

Decisions about which class a child is placed in are not taken lightly and staff consider which environment is best for each individual child.

Opportunities to come together as a cohort

Throughout the year we look for opportunities for the children to work as part of their year group cohort. This includes

- Extra curricular activities being offered to Year groups, not classes
- Lunchtimes and break times being taken in Year groups
- In KS1 phonics is taught in small ability groups, meaning children are mixed across EYFS/KS1
- Our additional morning class (Wagtail) allows children to be taught in smaller ability groups for English and Maths, these contain a mixture of children from Nightingale and Eagle Classes.
- Sports opportunities (including inter school events) are offered to Year groups

Curriculum

In practice, our class structure means that all children spend two years in two classes throughout their time at Ribby with Wrea. Over these two years, the children do not repeat a previous year's curriculum content. Our curriculum is organised into a two year rolling programme and through effective differentiation within each class, the children are taught the appropriate curriculum for their year group. Whilst some skills are revisited each year, the children are expected to access them at a higher level each year and show deeper and greater learning as they progress throughout the school.

Communication with Parents

We operate an open door policy and parents are encouraged to contact teachers either in person or via email to discuss concerns or specific issues as they arise.

We hold two formal parents evenings each year, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term. Discussions regarding which class children may be placed in are held during the Spring Term Parents' Evening. Indications may be made at this point although no firm decisions are confirmed.

Once decisions have been finalised by the Class Teacher and Head Teacher, a letter will be sent out confirming your child's class for the following year with their end of year report.

Any parent who wishes to discuss either the child's report or their child's class placement may do so by arranging a meeting with the child's class teacher.