



June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I want to apologise that my recent communication about the changes to KS1 classes for September 2026 was not shared in the format I had intended. I am writing again to correct that error and to reassure you that I fully recognise the importance of this information. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer further clarity about the operational decision the school has made.

Since 2022, pupil numbers at Moorings Way have fallen by 25%, meaning we are unable to operate as single year-group classes for the coming academic year. We are not alone in this; many schools across Portsmouth and nationally are responding to similar declines. In Portsmouth, there has been a 26.6% decrease in children starting school since 2023. We anticipated this trend and following a public consultation in 2024, reduced our Published Admission Number to 30 from this September. This will support us in returning to year group classes for the 2027–2028 academic year.

For this year, mixed year classes are essential for the school's financial stability and for making effective use of our teachers and resources, while still ensuring high quality teaching for every child. A similar structure was used successfully last year at Meon Infant School, with no negative impact on pupils' progress. Moorings Way has also used mixed year classes in the past during periods of lower pupil numbers. Across Portsmouth and in many rural areas nationally, mixed year classes are a well-established and effective model.

We will continue to deliver the full National Curriculum. In English and Maths, pupils will be taught the curriculum appropriate to their age. For the wider curriculum, we have adapted topics and units to ensure that Year 2 pupils do not repeat previous learning and that Year 1 pupils are not disadvantaged. Our teachers are already working closely with school leaders to ensure this is implemented effectively.

Our KS1 teachers will be Mrs Chrus, Miss Younger and Miss Hatton, all highly experienced practitioners who know our pupils and school well. I am confident they will lead their classes effectively and ensure that the mixed class structure has no negative impact on pupils' learning or wellbeing. Regarding class placements, pupils were invited to choose friends they would like to be with next year and this has been considered.



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Following our pupil transition morning on Tuesday 30th June, we will share further information about the KS1 timetable, how subjects will be taught and your child's class teacher. Additional transition opportunities have also been planned to support pupils and staff in building relationships and easing any anxieties. Please be assured that every aspect of this process is being carefully considered and implemented to a high standard. We pride ourselves on the positive, nurturing ethos at Moorings Way and this will continue into the new academic year.

I completely understand that this change may have raised some worries and I want to reassure you that we will continue to share clear information about what this will look like in practice. I am always happy to answer any questions you may have and I greatly appreciate your feedback and support.

There is a box with slips available in the school office if you would like to leave a query, or you are welcome to email the school office and I will respond as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Rachel Thripp



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