

Hamsey Community Primary School Cooksbridge

Skylark Federation
Executive Headteacher
Mr Stewart James BA (Hons).QTS

Head Of School
Mr Robert Newlands BSc (Hons). QTS
East Sussex County Council



Cooksbridge
Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 4SJ
Tel: 01273 400370

Email : hamseyoffice@skylarkfed.education
Website : www.hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

15 July 2021

As another academic year draws to a close and we race towards the end of the summer term, we would like to inform you of our planned class and staffing organisation for the next academic year, 2021/22. We appreciate that this information is always eagerly awaited, and we would like to reassure you that the new class composition plans are always carefully and thoroughly considered: every possible arrangement is given very careful thought and deliberation.

As we are a small, village school, our class organisation next year involves placing seven year-groups (Years R-6) of varying sizes, into four classes. Of course, whenever possible, we try to ensure that year groups are not divided; however, at times this is unavoidable.

From September, to ensure class sizes are fair and even throughout the school, we have reconfigured our Owls & Badgers Class organisation and, where a year group has been divided, we have done this by age (age determines how children are placed for their primary experience), attainment and friendship groups, so have applied these principles here in dividing our Year 5 cohort.

Our class composition (outlined below) mirrors that of the other schools in the Skylark Federation (Barcombe CE Primary School and Plumpton Primary School). For more information about the day-to-day workings, and benefits of this organisation, we have included a list of Frequently Asked Questions overleaf.

Our class organisation from September 2021 is as follows:

| Class | Year Group | Class Teacher | Class Support |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Hedgehogs | Reception & Year 1 | Mrs Baker Ms Finch | Mrs Curran |
| Foxes | Year 2 & Year 3 | Mr Dean Mr Newlands | Mrs Johnson |
| Badgers | Year 4 & Year 5 | Mrs Shinebourne | Mrs Evans |
| Owls | Year 5 & Year 6 | Mrs Robertson | Mrs Whitehorn |

All our teaching team will meet their new classes during our transition or 'moving up' afternoon next **Monday 19 July 2021**.

We are really excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Thursday 2nd September when we relish the opportunity to delve deep into our new *Discover* project of *Conflict*.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. S James
Executive Head Teacher

Mr R Newlands
Head of School

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FAQs

Will my child have the opportunity to play with year-group peers in other classes?

Yes, pupils in the current Badgers & Owls year groups enjoy every break time and lunch time with their year group peers, and will see and play with one another every day.

Will there be opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively across classes?

Yes, colleagues in Badgers & Owls classes will continue to plan collaboratively and timetable regular cross-class working.

I have some further questions about the arrangements for September, how should I contact the school?

We have shared these arrangements with you in advance of the end of the academic year to allow you the time to speak with us before the summer break, as we understand that a face-to-face conversation can prove useful in understanding the above changes. We invite parents to arrange to meet with Mr James and Mr Newlands on Monday 19 July. You do not need to write to us, simply contact the School Office on hamseyoffice@skylarkfed.education to arrange a face-to-face appointment at a convenient time.

Can you explain how this arrangement affects class sizes in Badgers & Owls

This arrangement avoids poorly configured class sizes that could range from 12 to 34 pupils. Under this arrangement, our Badgers & Owls Class sizes range from 22 to 25.

Will pupils continue to access teaching and learning in-line with their year-group expectations and be supported, stretched, and challenged accordingly?

Yes, pupils will continue to learn and be taught according to their year group and will complete the full curriculum programme for their year group/age group. Teachers from across the Federation plan collaboratively to ensure children in mixed-age, composite classes reach their full potential and cover all objectives set out in the National Curriculum. Irrespective of the class pupils are placed in (Year 4/5 or Year 5/6), it is our duty to ensure that children fulfil the objectives set out in their year group's curriculum: pupils will learn about the same topics and meet the same objectives whichever class they are in.

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