

13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Changes to class structure**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We wanted to inform you about an important change regarding our school's class structure, which will come into effect from September.

Starting from the upcoming academic year, we will be transitioning from a 2-form entry to a 1.5-form entry model. As a result of this change, our class structure will be adjusted to accommodate this new format. While this will lead to some adjustments in the way classes are organised, please be assured that we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all children.

We understand that change can raise questions, and we are here to address any concerns you may have. Our goal is to minimise any disruption and ensure that the academic progress and well-being of each child remains our top priority. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

The graph shown at the end of the letter reflects how the birth rate in Kent, and Thanet specifically, has not recovered to pre-Covid levels. This means that with reduced pupil numbers we will begin the next academic year with one Reception class. The children moving to year 1 and year 2 will be joined into mixed-age classes. This is a model used at many schools and something that we are confident will work well at Dame Janet. The children moving to year 3 and year 4 will also be taught in mixed-age group classes. Your child will still receive a high-quality education, tailored to their individual needs. We anticipate some of your early thoughts and questions:

**What will the class structure look like for next year?**

Class structure	
Nursery	Shorty's Nursery
Reception	One Year R class
Year 1 and 2	Three classes of mixed year 1 and year 2 pupils
Year 1 and 2	
Year 1 and 2	
Year 3 and 4	Three classes of mixed year 3 and year 4 pupils.
Year 3 and 4	
Year 3 and 4	
Year 5	Two classes of year 5 pupils
Year 5	
Year 6	Two classes of year 6 pupils
Year 6	

**Will my child remain with the same class next year?**

In readiness for September, we are preparing new class lists where classes will not move together as a whole group. Staff are working together to group children according to friendships, individual needs and attainment. We are aware that some schools choose to mix classes each year and although this is not something that regularly happens at Dame Janet, we are committed to ensuring that this works in the best interests of the children.

**How will the curriculum be taught in the mixed-age classes?**

The National Curriculum defines the skills and knowledge that need to be taught and understood by the end of Key Stage 1 (lower school, for us) and the end of Key Stage 2 (Upper school). Our curriculum is designed with high expectations and ensures that we achieve good outcomes: schools are measured on the percentage of children achieving GLD (a good level of development) at the end of Reception and the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2. As you will know from previous communications, we proudly achieve above the national average in these areas.

**Will the same year groups be taught at Lower and Upper School?**

Yes. Lower School will remain the main building for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Upper School will remain the main building for Years 3 to 6.

**When will my child spend time in their new class?**

Our upcoming transition day is set for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. On this day, children will spend time with their new class and their new teacher. By 2<sup>nd</sup> July, all children will receive a letter showing a picture of their new class teacher. On the same day, parents and carers will also receive a letter (via text) giving you this information. This is the same format used for the last number of years. Additional time with their new class teacher, listening to stories and spending time together is also planned for this term.

**My child is moving from Lower School to Upper School, will there be additional transition activities?**

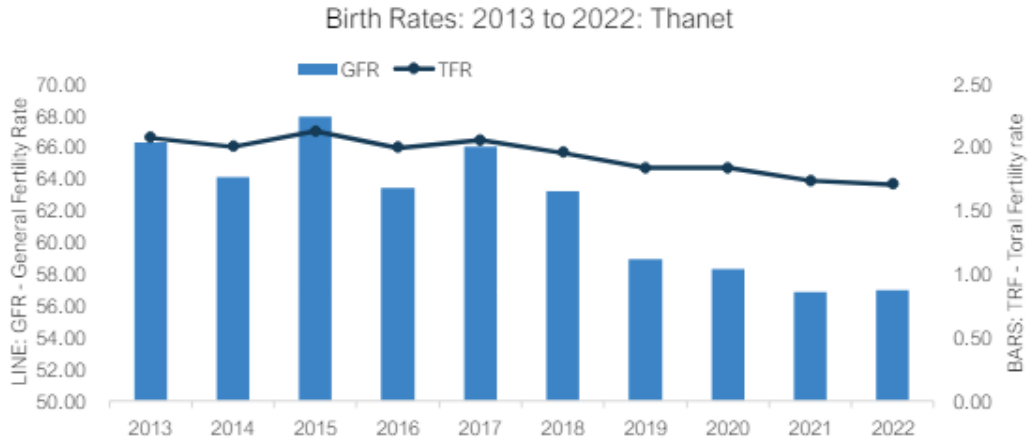
Yes - every year, we ensure that the children moving from Lower to Upper School are familiar with the building, playgrounds and layout of the building. They will spend time playing and listening to stories at Upper School in readiness for a smooth transition in September.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to enhance our school's class structure for the benefit of all our children and to reflect the birth rate. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G Sherwin  
Head of School

Mr S Atkinson  
Executive Headteacher



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