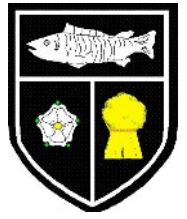


ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL, SMHL



05/06/2026

Four Class Structure – September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, our current Year 6 cohort consists of 16 pupils. When these children transition to secondary school, this will have an impact on our overall pupil numbers and, consequently, the level of funding the school receives.

Following Primary School Allocation Day on Thursday 16th April 2026, we received 13 first-choice applications for EYFS places starting in September. Of these 13 applications, seven are from families living outside Elvington's traditional catchment area.

This represents a positive outcome, particularly against the backdrop of a declining birth rate both locally and nationally. It also reflects the school's strong reputation for providing an exceptional, well-rounded education, alongside achieving some of the highest academic outcomes in the local area.

We have worked proactively to promote our school—publicising our Open Morning through the *York Press* and building direct links with local pre-school providers. Elvington was also ranked 9th out of 352 primary schools in North Yorkshire in a *Yorkshire Post* article published in November 2024: www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/education/north-yorkshire-17-top-performing-state-primary-schools-based-on-pupils-basic-english-maths-skills-4842824.

Despite these positive developments, the number of families with primary-aged children in the local area remains limited. As a result, it will not be possible to return to a five-class structure in the next academic year.

A recent report from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) suggests that there is a negligible link between class size and pupil attainment – *"The estimates indicate that class size does not have a statistically significant effect on student achievement"*. This is however more significant in the early years of primary – *"There is some evidence for additional benefits of smaller class sizes with younger children, so smaller class sizes may be a more effective approach during the early stages of primary school"*. Consequently, the number of children in EYFS/KS1 are still lower than in the vast majority of schools.

Taking the aforementioned into account, below is the structure that will be implemented from the start of next academic year.



"I have come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10

Class 4	Year 6 & Year 5
Class 3	Year 4 & Year 3
Class 2	Year 2 & Year 1
Class 1	Year 1 & EYFS

Class 3 will continue to be split into two groups for their morning Maths and English sessions. Each group will be taught by a teacher and supported by a teaching assistant.

From Monday 1st June, Mrs. Katherine Cole will be supporting Class 3 during the aforementioned morning sessions. Mrs. Cole is a highly experienced and fully qualified primary school teacher; I am confident that her expertise will further strengthen the excellent provision already delivered by Mrs. Ingle and Mrs. Marjoram.

As Class 1 and Class 2 numbers are most likely to fluctuate, I will balance these up once numbers are confirmed.

It is likely that the combination of a falling birth rate and no additional housing in the village will continue to be a factor over the coming years. However, we have made plans that will support either an increase or decrease in pupil numbers.

Class allocation information will be included in your child's end of year report. We are still receiving applications for places, consequently, it will not be possible for this information to be shared earlier.

I would like to reassure you that we will continue to maintain the highest standards of pedagogy and pupil care. There will be no reduction in the amount of teaching assistant support provided; with the added benefits of having an additional classroom for group activities. In addition, Elvington's teachers have all had experience of teaching larger classes while ensuring exceptional pupil outcomes.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (head@elvingtonprimary.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Andrew Buttery