

WELCOME



Ashley Junior School

Ready • Respectful • Responsible





Friday, 17th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mainstream Year 3 pupils Ashley Junior School – September 2026 Intake

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 3s, and their families, when the children start at our school in September 2026. We will be sending the children more detailed information, just before half-term, about the transition activities that we have set-up for them to take part in during the second part of the summer term.

We are writing to you today to make you aware of an important change to the structure of the lower-school classes at AJS from September 2026.

As a result of lower pupil numbers in Years 3 and 4, compared to previous years, we have made the decision to mix these year groups next year. From September 2026, we will have **three mixed-age Year 3&4 mainstream classes**, rather than two classes for each year group.

We are really looking forward to taking on the mixed-age classes model that AJS started this academic year, and are confident that the new Year 3 and 4 children will continue to make excellent progress socially, emotionally and academically next year.

In order to explain and explore this new class set-up further, we would like to invite parents/carers from the current mainstream Year 2 cohort at AJS, and parents/carers of our current mainstream Year 3 cohort, to attend a meeting.

We would ask that parents sign up for one of the following meeting slots, using the google form below:

[Parent/Carers Information meeting regarding September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Parents/Carers Meeting Date	Time
Thursday 30 th April	9.00 – 9.30am
	2.15 – 2.45pm
	3.40 – 4.10pm
	5.30 – 6.00pm
Tuesday 19 th May	9.00 – 9.30am
	2.15 – 2.45pm

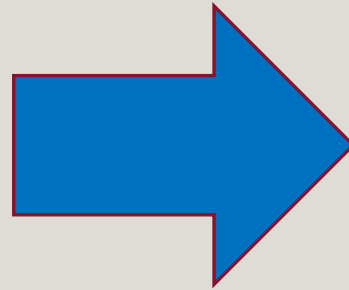
We look forward to meeting with you at one of these sessions in the coming weeks. Please note that information from the meetings will be emailed to all new Year 3 and Year 4 parents/carers on Wednesday 20th May, so that those who were unable to attend can read the key messages.

Thank you for your time, in advance.

Kind regards,

Mrs C. Bartolomeo

Headteacher and DSL



1879 to 2026 = 147 years





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Key Advantages of Mixed-Age Classes



Deeper Understanding of Pupil Needs

In a mixed age classroom, teachers have the advantage of working with the same group of children over multiple years.

This allows teachers to gain a deeper understanding of each child's individual needs and strengths, fostering a more tailored learning experience.



Broader Peer Interactions

Children benefit from a wider circle of peers in mixed age settings, which promotes a sense of community and belonging.

They learn to appreciate diverse perspectives, fostering empathy and cooperation as they engage with classmates of varying ages





Stronger Communication Skills

With opportunities to engage with peers who may be older or younger, children develop robust communication skills.

They learn to express their thoughts and ideas using a richer vocabulary and more complex sentence structures, often stretching beyond what is typical for their age group.



Enhanced Social Skills

In mixed age environments, children have the chance to build relationships with a diverse group of peers.

This interaction fosters collaboration, and helps children learn to communicate effectively with others, bridging age gaps and nurturing friendships that extend beyond their immediate age group.



How will mixed age teaching will be monitored?



- **Teachers regularly assess pupils**, both informally (from day to day) and formally (with tests and other assessments). Where pupils need extra help, this may be given in class or through intervention groups;
- **Teachers regularly compare books across the team** to compare outcomes, and develop consistency, between different teachers;
- The **Leadership Team frequently monitoring lessons and books**;
- Three-times a year we hold **Pupil Progress Meetings with teachers and LSAs**, which focus on monitoring assessment information, and ensures that pupils are making the progress we expect based on their previous attainment;

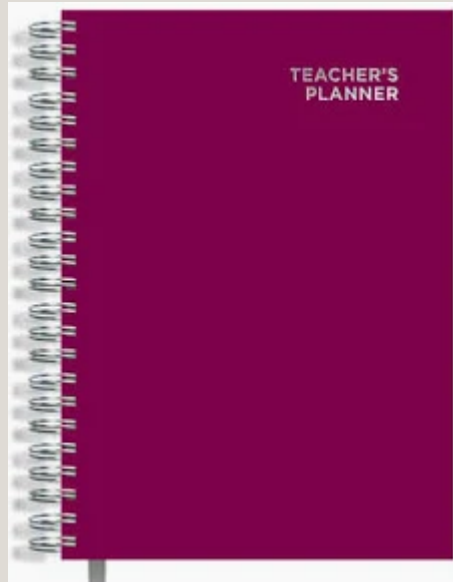
Information about the progress of pupils' learning will shared with parents at our Parent Consultation Meetings.



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Our Year 3&4 mixed age classes will follow a **two-year rolling programme** of study.

The rolling programmes have been developed to create a **broad and balanced curriculum** over a two-year period.

The **National Curriculum** content for children from both years will be carefully considered to ensure that the progression of skills is clear.



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"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."

- Rita Pierson, Educator



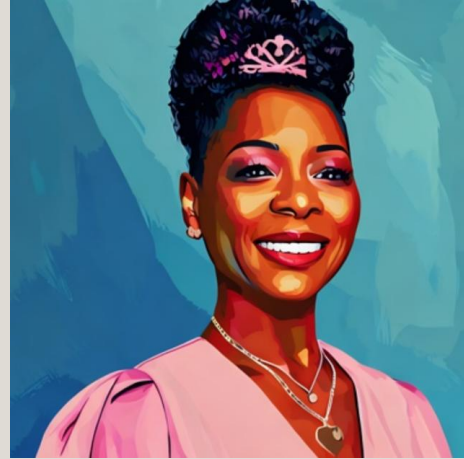
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Year 3&4 Classes SEPTEMBER 2026

Baroness Floella **BENJAMIN**



Michael **ROSEN**



Sir Mo **FARAH**



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How are classes allocated?



Ashley Infant School

Our school values are

Confidence. Happiness. Achievement.

Respect. Motivation.

CHARM!



Ashley Junior School



How are classes allocated?

We take a number of influences into consideration and make professional judgments based on these.

Mixed year groups are considered very carefully, depending on each cohort of children.

These include:

- Social learning group
- Emotional development
- Readiness to learn
- Stage of learning
- Gender and age (balance of class and year group)
- Additional needs



All these factors will be taken into consideration by the team when making a final decision.





TRANSITION



Current Year 2 parents will be contacted on the morning of Wednesday 17th June with detailed information about their child's start at AJS, including their class allocation for September 2026.

Current Year 3 parents will be contacted on Friday 10th July, with information about their child's class for September 2026, following our usual [Whole School Transition afternoon](#).

Year 2



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