

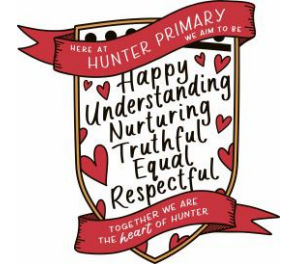
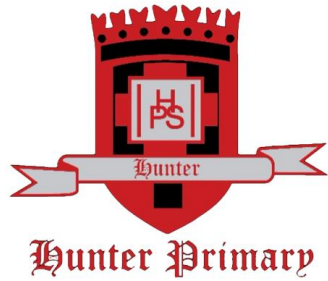
Hunter Primary School



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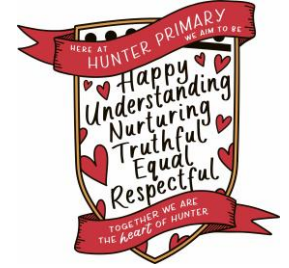
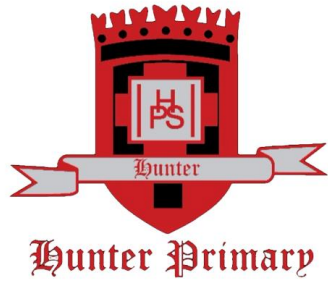
~ a guide to
Composite
classes





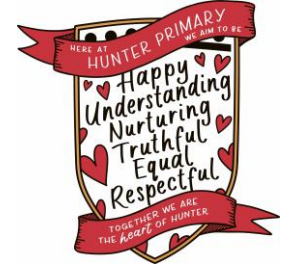
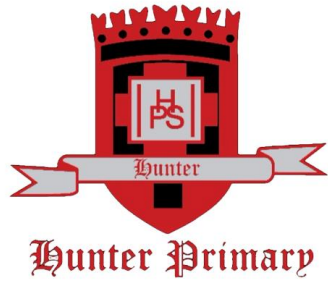
Each year classification comes from the number of Primary 7 pupils leaving a school, the number of Primary 1 enrolments, and the number of catchment/placing requests coming into the school.

1. The first step is always to review our school roll with SLC. Colleagues at HQ advise us on the number of classes and teachers for the following session. This process begins in January and continues into May/June, sometimes July. It can often change as new families move into or out of the catchment area (including during the summer holiday). This ultimately impacts on the number of classes we are assigned and the design of classes i.e a straight staged class or composite class.
2. The identification of teachers taking Primary 1 classes is always shared as early as possible.
3. Our other classes are then organised using **academic working groups** and not solely friendship groupings. Working groups within Numeracy and Literacy need to be manageable for the class teacher and this means that two different classrooms come together to form different classes e.g. P1/2, P2/3, etc.
4. We then consider how each class is made up using the **size of the working group** as a guide along with our extensive knowledge of the pupils.



It is important to note that:

- Groups going into composite classes are **not** identified because children are not working at the expected levels. For example, if your child is a P3 pupil and placed in a composite P2/3 class, this is **not** because they are struggling with learning and require to revisit concepts taught in P2.
- Similarly, if you have a P2 pupil going into a P2/3 composite class, this is **not** because they require the challenge of P3 curriculum.
- Finally, we consider the draft classes to ensure no pupils are separated from **all** of their friends, or socially isolated. Current class teachers flag up any issues using their knowledge of children and social groups and small tweaks can then be made.
- We ensure children in a composite class **work together across the classes of their stage** throughout the year where possible. They will always socialise in the playground, be able to sit beside one another in the canteen, take part in reward time, etc.



This process takes place every year and we spend a lot of time ensuring that the class groups are organised to provide the **best learning opportunities** for learning and teaching at each stage.

Class sizes for a composite class are always capped to a maximum of **25 pupils**. For a straight staged class, the maximum class size can go up to a maximum of **33 pupils**. Therefore, a composite class is always smaller by pupil numbers.

We always feel it is important to caution families at the end of a session as our classification ***could*** change on our return to school in August, resulting in class structures changing. We always inform the pupils of this at the end of the year. Any changes needing made would be communicated to parents/carers on one of our In-Service days in August.

We appreciate your support and understanding to recognise that this robust process means we have fully considered your child's learning and social needs and made a professional decision about classes.

Hunter Primary School



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