



**EDITHVALE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
SCHOOL NUMBER 3790

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: Class Structures for 2022

The final round of interviewing for 2022 staff will take place over the next few weeks and once this has been confirmed we will begin to appoint staff to each level of the school in preparation for next year. This will assist us to again provide an engaging and supportive transition program later this term. Our staffing profile will change again next year with some new staff joining our team and some returning from Family leave

We are very fortunate to have such a professional and dedicated teaching staff at Edithvale Primary and I have complete confidence that all children will continue to be stimulated, challenged and nurtured in all of our classes.

Determining the composition of classes for 2022 is a comprehensive process undertaken by our teaching team each year. It involves many hours of consideration and the overriding goal is to achieve a balance of competencies across each class at each level. The factors that are analysed to achieve this balance include a spread of academic abilities as well as a mixture of social skills and behavioural characteristics.

Particularly after such a disrupted year, parents and carers may like to request that their child be placed with a particular friend or in a particular class.

Requests for placement with friends

Edithvale Primary School recognises the importance of fostering and maintaining friendship groups. We also understand that it is equally important for students to mix and learn with peers who have different interests. However in some cases friendship preferences of students may not be facilitated if teachers feel that it is in the best interests of a student to separate him/her from another student. This is to help us ensure all students maximise the stimulating and engaging learning opportunities that we provide at school.

Students are guaranteed ONE friend.

If you would like to request that your child be placed in a class with a particular friend or friends, please ensure that you make this request by **Friday November 12** so that we can consider your request in organising our classes for next year.

Requests for class placements should be made in writing each year-noting that circumstances/friendships change - outlining who you would like your child to be placed with and why. Requests can be addressed to James Whitla, Luke McMaster and Hayley Grindley via the school's email edithvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au We will not always be able to accommodate class placement requests, but will endeavour to take your wishes into consideration where possible.

Requests for placement with certain teachers

All teachers at Edithvale Primary School are caring and committed educators and Edithvale Primary School strives to ensure that all students are provided with a high quality education.

Whilst we appreciate that you may wish that your child would benefit from being placed in a class with a particular teacher, we are generally unable to accommodate all of these requests. Our school's leadership team has an in-depth understanding of each teacher's strengths and will always endeavour to place our students with teachers who are best placed to suit their needs. We do not re-allocate students to different classes during the school year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Parents will be advised of the situation if it arises.

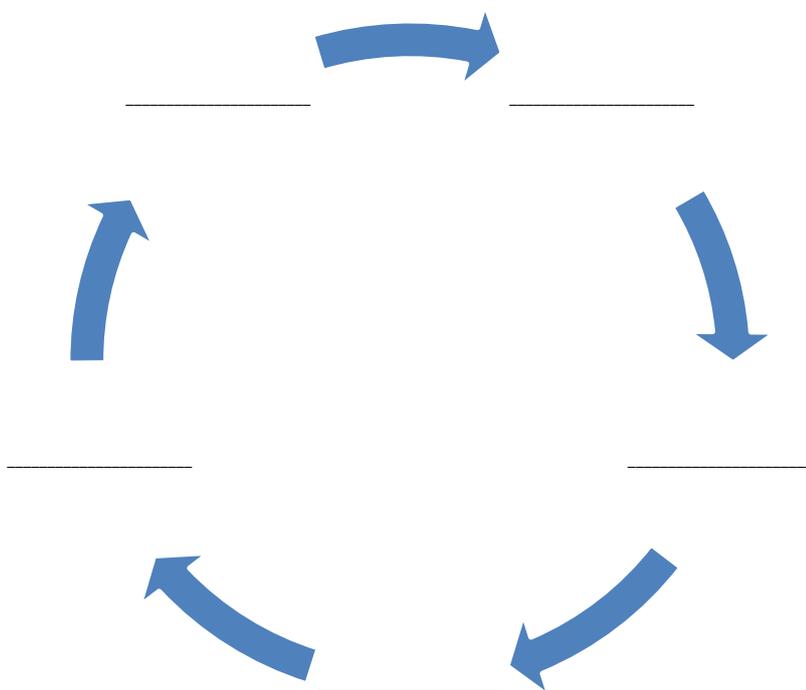
Another consideration, when working through this process, is our school's focus on student resilience. While every effort will be made to ensure the smooth transition into the new year for all students, we will continue to build a

community of resilient learners with a positive outlook and a 'growth mindset'. This will accompany our work with the Resilience Project again in 2022. We encourage parents and guardians to use similar language when working with your child throughout this process.

If you have any additional information that you believe is relevant to us concerning your child's learning needs as we begin this process, please let me know in writing, as soon as possible and we will aim to accommodate them.

In the coming weeks, during class time, students in each grade will be asked to nominate 5 students they would like to work with next year as their 'learning buddies'. Students will be requested to select a number of students from across each of the classes in their Year level and complete a similar form to the one included below. We will ensure that EVERY student will get to work with at least 1 of their choices. This will assist us to compile balanced and considered classroom structures for 2022.

Please take a moment to chat with your child about who might be included as their preferred 'learning buddies' when they fill them out in the coming weeks. The preference form that all students will be asked to fill in will be similar to the one shown here.



Please be assured that the complex process of determining next year's classes is a major undertaking by our teachers and that we all want the best for each of our students. Our staff work collaboratively in teams to create engaging, supportive and authentic learning experiences so that we can equip our students with the skills and knowledge to be successful young adults. I am confident that ALL classes will access excellent teaching and learning throughout 2022 and I ask that you support and trust the professional judgements of our teaching staff in creating classes for next year.

Kind Regards

James Whitla

Principal