



Dear Parents

15th June 2010

The children will be taking part in a transition program later this term to ensure that they settle well into Year 3 and the new challenges they will meet. Here are some of the changes they will experience.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The children have access to the classrooms at 8.45am and are encouraged to come in independently and organise themselves in preparation for the school day. Once settled they begin a "morning job" which could be reading, spelling, finishing off, etc and they should be ready to start immediately after they put away their personal belongings.



Registration is at 8.55am. Children who are not present at registration need to go to the office to be entered as a late arrival in the register.

First break is at 10.50am. Please ensure your child has a named healthy snack or a bought snack equivalent to 10p per day. We feel this is vital as it aids their learning and concentration. The children also need a drink of water in a named, leak-proof, plastic container. Water bottles are available to buy from the school office at 50p each. Please could you check your child takes home their water bottles daily.

Lunch is at 12.10pm. The children will have lunch in the hall on a rota basis - if not into the hall first for lunch they will have a playtime before being called into lunch by the lunchtime supervisory staff. Afternoon session starts at 1.15pm with registration. There is no afternoon break, however, children cope well and can have a run around if necessary.



The end of school is at 3.30pm. Please make sure your child knows who they are going to be collected by and whether they are to walk around to meet you if you are collecting children from any other classes. Children must not leave the school grounds without an adult unless you have requested that they do so.

We encourage the children to use the toilet during break times so that visits to the toilet during class time are kept to a minimum - they are discouraged during lessons except for absolute emergencies.

TOPICS

We have some very exciting topics in Year 3, as follows:-

- Autumn Term:** Rivers and Ancient Egypt
- Spring Term:** Lights, Camera, Action
- Summer Term:** Henry VIII and all that

SPELLING

The children will be assessed and put into spelling groups at the beginning of term.

The new spellings will be introduced on Monday and taken home in a spelling book on Tuesday to learn.

In class we will discuss various strategies that you and your child can use to help learn the words in preparation for a test every Monday.

Every four weeks there will be a "Big Test" of the previous four weeks' spellings.

HOMEWORK

Homework is set weekly. As well as reading and spellings the children will be given their own times tables targets to practise at home. They will also have Impact Maths or Weekend Challenges which will be given on Friday and will be due in by the following Wednesday.

Weekend challenges will usually be completed in a homework book. Whilst we encourage parents to support their children with homework, it is helpful if written work is their own. If the work has been researched on the Internet please encourage your child to use the information rather than just print it out.

READING

During each day there will be reading time - details of this are in the reading diaries. The children will read with the teacher once a week in a guided reading session and will have prep and follow up activities to be carried out in class. We will spend time discussing the texts to promote the skills of skimming, scanning, predicting, etc and we will indicate in their diaries what the focus will be.



If your child is on the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme we would encourage them to be heard read at least 3 to 4 times a week. The children should read each book to an adult twice or until they are confident before changing the book. Once finished the children will be expected to change the book independently.

Those children who are not on the ORT scheme books must have a reading book at school. This can be from home, school or the public library. It is still important that the children are heard read at home but it is also important that they are encouraged to read independently.

We would like all readers to be questioned about the content of the text regardless of how fluent they are at reading.

The reading diaries are intended to be used by the teachers, parents and children. We encourage the children to write entries independently. This needs only to be the date, title and pages. A book review, picture of a character, etc is appropriate possibly when finished reading a book.

CLOTHING

Please ensure all items of clothing, particularly sweatshirts are named clearly. We appreciate that these are expensive items of clothing and they are easier to return if they are named. Could you please make sure your child has a warm coat to wear at break and lunch times during the cold, wet weather.

As the days grow colder please ensure your child has adequate clothing for outdoor activities. They will require a tracksuit or leggings/jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for Games (outdoor) in the winter months.

WOODS

As you may be aware we have the almost unique opportunity of being able to take our Junior children to an area of privately owned woodland situated just over an hour's walk from Swanmore, Little Horsecroft Copse, otherwise known as Captain Phillimore's Woods.

Each class makes a day visit to Little Horsecroft Copse at least twice a year and the children become familiar with and very attached to these woods over a four year period. During these visits they follow a programme of activities designed to develop their awareness of and sensitivity to their environment and the care with which it should be treated. They also learn to work with others in team building activities.

At the end of Year 6 the children's final visit takes the form of an overnight bivouac camp and is their opportunity to say goodbye to the woods before they leave us to go on to Secondary School.

P. E.

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day. Children should be able to put on plimsolls unaided - please ensure they fit adequately (trainers are often easier for them and safer when playing outdoor games). Earrings should be removed or covered with micropore tape (provided by the parent) for P.E., and watches should also be removed.

If your child cannot tie their shoelaces, it would help us greatly if you could teach them this skill.

The Swimming Programme will commence after Christmas and you will be notified by letter the dates on which your child will be going swimming and which items they will need to bring. Children will not be allowed to wear earrings in the swimming pool, so we recommend they do not wear earrings to school on the swimming day.



CHURCH

Every Wednesday children in the Juniors attend a Service at St Barnabas Church which starts at 9.15am. These are usually lead by a class or sometimes the priest in charge, Peter Kelly.

Each class leads two services a year as well as two Friday assemblies. You are very welcome to attend any of the Church services.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

In Year 3 children have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular instrumental lessons. A letter giving further details will be sent home soon.



It is your child's responsibility to remember his/her instrument at the beginning and end of the appropriate day and the time of his/her lesson.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to make your child's time in Year 3 happy and enjoyable. We are always available to discuss any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Coombes and Mrs Doran