



Year R Newsletter

September 2024



This half term we will be Learning about Starting School including routines, rules and expectations. Our next project will be Harvest and Autumn. After half term we will be learning about Woodland animals and the Dark, where we will be finding out about nocturnal animals and fireworks.



Lunch Time

It is really helpful if you discuss with your child what they are going to have for their lunch as this means they will make the right choice and not be disappointed. Please let us know if you would prefer them not to choose jacket potato every day!



Year R LOVE junk modelling!

We always welcome bags of clean 'junk' for the children to use — bottles, boxes, yoghurt pots, loo rolls, etc. Please do not send in polystyrene bits, egg boxes or anything that contained nuts, or medicine.



Long hair

Please ensure that long hair is tied back. This is especially important for P.E. and because children are using the climbing frame and play trail. It also helps to prevent the spread of headlice.



Don't forget to bring drinks bottles in every day. Please ensure that children **only have water** in their bottles. Please do not put flavoured water or squash in them. As part of our healthy school initiative we promote the drinking of water to keep the children hydrated in school. However squash is also more likely to make a sticky mess when spilt whilst water does not. Children can have squash or juice in their lunchbox.

Please don't put bottles in book bags as over the last few years we have lost lots of books due to water damage. Thank you for your support with this.



If you haven't already done so, could you please provide a pair of wellies which your child can keep in school in our welly boxes. Make sure they are clearly labelled!



We would also like wet weather trousers. We like to go outside whatever the weather!

Bookbags & Reading Diaries

We endeavour to change library books once a week. Mrs Cole our wonderful librarian will be meeting the children next week to introduce them to our library. Please ensure that all books are kept in bookbags and brought to school every day.

A letter about our home reading badge scheme will be coming out shortly. We recommend that you begin recording home reading as soon as your child brings their reading diary home.

Our normal reading day and library visit is on a Wednesday so please ensure there are 4 entries in the diaries from Wednesday to Wednesday in order for your child to earn a stamp towards their first badge.

Seesaw

We will be posting some lovely photos of our new Robins and Wrens enjoying their first couple of weeks at school. Don't forget to activate your account and have a look at all the wonderful things that they have been up to.



Keyrings and straps on bookbags

Please can we ask you to ensure that there are no keyrings and shoulder straps attached to your child's bookbag. The reason we ask this is because bookbags only just fit into their trays and keyrings hang over the edge and make it tricky for them to close their trays. Please remove any that are already on.





Calpol

We do not give out calpol at school. If your child needs calpol throughout the day please bring some in and hand it to the office, you will be asked to sign a consent

form to do this.

Other medicines need to be handed in at the office e.g. antibiotics. Your consent is required before we can administer these.

Volunteers

We are keen to develop a team of volunteers to help read with the children in Year R, 1 and 2. If you are able to give up a morning or afternoon on a regular basis your help would be invaluable. Please pop into the office so that we can do the necessary paperwork for school volunteers. We are also very happy to have Grandparents or members of the community as volunteers.



Food allergies

If your child has a food allergy we will need a doctor's note in order to ensure that the kitchen staff are able to provide a suitable taylor-made menu for them. Once this has been done the child will have an orange tray so that all staff are aware they have an allergy.



Toilet

We know that many of you have been encouraging your child to wipe their own bottoms. Keep up the good work!



Letters and bump notes

Please give any forms to the Year R teachers in the morning as we don't go through their bookbags everyday. Bump notes will now be emailed to you via medical tracker.

Shortly we will be sending out name cards with your child's name written in our handwriting style for them to practise with you at home. We will be working on this in school and our first priority is to work on forming some letters correctly as this is crucial. Please can you practise your child's name at home using the name card as a guide ensuring that the children start in the place indicated with a dot on each letter and follow the direction of the arrow if shown. If you are unsure please ask as it is really important that from now on they use the handwriting style we use in school.

Unlearning an incorrect formation takes time and we are trying to tell the children, "This is how we do it in big school," rather than saying, "You're doing it all wrong!"



We are also focusing on correct pencil grip in school. Please encourage a 'tripod' grip when working on name writing at home. We often say to the children 'pinch, pinch finger behind'. To make a tripod grip the children pinch the pencil between their index finger and thumb and then tuck their middle finger behind. Again please come to see us if you need any support with this. We will attempt to share a video on seesaw to model this.

It is school tradition that, as our Year 6 children leave at the end of the summer term they 'ring out' of school with our beautiful Victorian bell on the Swan bell stand. To complete the 'circle of school life' we like our Year R children to 'ring in' to Swanmore Primary School as an official welcome to the whole school as they all approach full time sessions. You are warmly invited to share this occasion with us on Friday 27th September at 2.45 pm on the school playground. All welcome. Feel free to photograph!



Early Year's Playground

We would like to be able to set up activities for the day in our outside area so that as soon as we open up outside the children can begin their Playing and Learning. This will involve filling up the water trays, removing the sand-pit cover and taking the covers off the trollies. **Please can we ask that you do not allow your child or any preschool siblings to play with our resources before and after school otherwise we will be unable to do this.**

Before and after school we are not responsible for your child's safety on the climbing frame, therefore it is our recommendation that they do not use it. If we see children on the climbing frame outside school hours we will assume they are being fully supervised by their parent/carer.



Curiosity Cube

A curiosity cube is a great way to stimulate discussions and creates intrigue around its contents within the classroom. We have two cubes in our setting. One is in the investigation station in Wrens and we will be resourcing this one. The other is on the snack café table so that the children can enjoy discussing the contents whilst sharing their snacks. We are hoping that the children will want to bring objects to place inside this cube. We say to the children this is all about looking and investigating not touching. There will be a sign up sheet in Robins classroom for the cube so we can have a range of different ideas and objects across the year, just ask YrR staff. Please see the end of the newsletter for more ideas about the cube.



Home toys

We are so lucky to have great resources in our Year R Classrooms. If any of these find their way home in pockets and bookbags we would ask that you return them to us discretely!



We also have a rule that no home toys are brought into school. We have found in the past that these can get lost or broken and this can be very upsetting.

Outside PE Kits

Children will need both indoor kits, (T shirts and shorts) and outdoor kits (warm Tracksuit trousers and hoodies/sweatshirts and trainers/ plimsolls.) You may also like to put spare pants and socks in their PE bags in case they have an accident.



Getting dressed independently

Soon we will begin our PE lessons. Much of our time often ends up being spent on getting changed rather than doing much PE. To help us have a fun filled PE lesson and to ensure that your child is not missing out, please support us by working with your child on dressing and undressing independently home. Don't forget to work on socks. Many Thanks!

Thank you

We wanted to say thank you for being so accommodating with home visits and induction week. This is the best start we could have asked for.



Summer Reading Challenge

If your child took part in the Summer Reading Challenge please could you send in their certificates. We will be hiring a bouncy castle for all the children in school who completed this as well as children attending the Year R picnic. The Picnic will be on the school field at 5pm. For more information about the picnic please see the letter.



Dates for your Diary

- * Wednesday 25th September Yr R Picnic
- * Friday 27th September 2.45pm - Year R bell ringing ceremony - Families welcome
- * Monday 30th September- INSET
- * Tuesday 1st October - Yr R parents evening
- * Wednesday 2nd October- FOSPS Circus
- * Monday 7th October 11am- KS1 Harvest
- * Thursday 24th October- individual school photos
- * Friday 25th October - Break up for half term
- * Monday 4th November - back to school
- * Thursday 7th November- flu spray
- * Friday 8th November- FOSPS Firework Night
- * Friday 6th December- 50p non uniform sale
- * Tuesday 10th December- Nativity (Tickets are issued)
- * Wednesday 11th December- Nativity (Tickets are issued)

What could I put in my Curiosity Cubes?



The sky is the limit with what you can put in your curiosity cubes! These are just a few ideas;

If you wanted to do a **holiday theme**, you could try putting some objects that relate to a different country eg. A flag, sand and shells, a postcard, a cocktail umbrella, a map, a train ticket or boarding pass, foreign money, a ski pass.



If your child is interested in **football** you could put a whistle, football boots, a ticket for a match, a trophy. This could be adapted for any sport or hobby.

If you grow your own **vegetables or flowers** you may wish to add some seeds and packets, produce and some compost in a pot.

If you have a very **old fashioned teddy or toy** you could put that in with a new teddy so they can explore and discuss the differences.

If you have an intricate **lego model** you may wish to put this in—don't worry the children are not allowed to touch it!

If your child loves to **cook** you may like to put a recipe with a sample of ingredients and some of the equipment used for making it eg a lemon squeezer.

If you love to **go on walks** you may put a selection of things you have found;

Seaside – sand, shells, driftwood, seaglass, seaweed

Autumn – pinecones, acorns, conkers, leaves

Winter — fake snow and objects to make a snowman

Spring— birds nest and eggs

Summer— pressed flowers, daisy chain, buds, different flower petals

If your child has a real interest in an area you may wish to do ;

a birthday theme candles, cake cases, party bags, birthday card

a train, car, vehicle theme

A dinosaur theme

A space theme

A fairy theme

Finally you may want to include something that they will have no idea about, eg a tool or a resource that you use at your place of work or a historical item that will create intrigue and discussion.

