

14th September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

Welcome back to a new school year where Term 1 has begun well and we are pleased to see the children in school looking smart and ready to learn. **There are some changes to this letter so please take the time to read the information enclosed.**

Morning Routine

Before school in the morning is a busy time, if you would like to speak to us at length, it may be better to make an appointment at the end of the day, at a mutually convenient time. It is important that the classrooms are settled and clear by **8.50am** so that the school day can commence promptly. Cloakroom doors will open at 8.45am and the school bell will be rung just before this so that the children can line up smartly and be ready for their class teacher.

PE Times

Below are the days that your child will need his/her P.E. kit. However, we do encourage the children to have their kit in school every day.

Class 1	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
Class 2	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Class 3	Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Class 4	Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Class 5	Tuesday & Wednesday
Class 6	Tuesday & Wednesday
Class 7 & 8	Tuesday & Wednesday
Class 9 & 10	Monday & Thursday
Class 11 & 12	Wednesday & Friday

If your child is in KS2 they will also be swimming throughout the year. Please look out for letters giving info about swimming times and dates. If in doubt, please check with the office.

Your child will not be able to participate in P.E. without the following kit:

<u>Indoor P.E.</u>	<u>Outdoor P.E.</u>	<u>Swimming (Yrs 3-6)</u>
Blue Bure Park Sports T-shirt	Dark tracksuit or navy shorts	Swimming trunks (boys)
Navy blue shorts	* Trainers (please see note below)	One piece swim suit (girls)
	Blue Bure Park Sports T-shirt	*Swimming hat (please see note below)
	Clean socks	

- It is very important for your child to bring trainers for outdoor P.E. as plimsolls do not grip well on outdoor surfaces.
- **As it gets colder, can children also bring tracksuit bottoms and sweat tops/fleece tops for outdoor P.E. A hat and gloves can also be worn when it is cold too.**
- Please ensure your child has a swimming hat. This is a requirement by the Leisure Centre. We have a stock in the school office where you may purchase a swimming hat for £1.00. Please avoid wearing white hats as these are used for children with medical conditions

Please note that when taking part in all P.E. sessions, for safety reasons, children wearing earrings are requested to remove them. If this is not possible then we request they come to school on those days supplied with tape to put over the earrings during the P.E. session and long hair must be tied back.

Homework

In Key Stage 1 it is important that children practice their reading, spellings and number skills and we would appreciate it if children could practice these skills as often as possible.

Children have book bags with their current reading book in plus a reading diary. It is essential that children read regularly most school evenings in order to ensure individual progress. Within school they will read independently, as part of a group and within whole class guided reading sessions. In the reading diary, there are suggested activities, and strategies, which you can use when reading with your child. It is important to talk about the book as you go through. ***Please do not use the reading diaries to write general messages to the***

teaching staff. Please record relevant comments about your child's reading skills and encouraging comments for your child – it is your child's personal reading record. Their blue book bags must be brought to school each day.

Children will have spellings each week and it helps them if parents can reinforce these each evening.

To support children with their number skills they need to be encouraged to count, share and subtract objects. As they become more confident in these areas they need to learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

We will be sending out more information regarding Key Stage 1 homework and suggesting some useful websites that you can use at home. We will also add relevant websites regarding our topics as we cover them. We often find that children become very enthusiastic about our topics and often want to find out more at home, they will be encouraged to share anything they find out at home. Mini topic style research may be sent home in Year 2 after Christmas.

In Key Stage 2, the purpose of homework is twofold; to consolidate knowledge and prepare the children for future learning. If your child does not complete the homework, he/she may be at a disadvantage and we are, accordingly, asking for your help in ensuring your child does complete each piece of homework that is set.

For the majority of the academic year, homework will be issued once a week in years 3 and 4. In years 5 and 6 the homework expectations increase, in preparation for secondary school and it will be set twice a week. It will consist of a maths homework and an English-based piece of homework. Please check with your child and/or class teacher regarding the completion date. Occasionally a mini project may be given, where there would be a slightly extended timescale.

If any problems or concerns arise regarding homework, then please contact your child's class teacher.

IMPORTANT REQUEST

We have been requested to bring parents' attention to the following item from the School Health Nurse. This is a copy of her letter:

'I am writing to ask for your help regarding the health of a number of children in the school who have a potentially life threatening allergy to nuts/peanut based and milk products

Can I request that you bear this in mind when making up your child's lunchbox and, perhaps, avoid nuts products, if at all possible? We know how small children like, and, indeed, are encouraged to share, but if peanut or any nut products could be avoided as much as you can, this would help to create a safer environment for these children. Any help you can give in this matter would be very much appreciated.'

School Nurse.

Consequently we are a nut free school

Healthy Eating

In line with the Government's healthy eating initiatives and the Healthy School Meals policy, may we please remind you that the morning snacks which the children bring to school, should be a healthy snack which boosts the child's energy levels and ability to think, e.g. fruit/ vegetable sticks, or cereal/muesli bars. Please encourage your child to make healthy choices accordingly.

KS1 children do receive fruit each morning through Government funding but please note that on the first day back after each holiday, there will be no fruit delivery. Therefore, can you please ensure that your child has a fruit snack that morning.

Water bottles

It would be helpful if all children had a named water bottle with a sports top that they can bring into school each day. These will need to be taken home each evening to be cleaned and refilled. Research indicates that regular intake of water during the day could help children to learn more effectively. Please note that it should be plain water in these bottles and not any kind of diluted juice, in order to have the most beneficial effect on the brain.

Permission slip for school activities

These letters have been sent home with your child, please ensure they are returned to your **child's class teacher** promptly.

Uniform

The school uniform consists of the following:

Boys - Grey trousers (long or short); white polo shirt, navy blue school sweatshirt *
Plain Grey or black socks (**not patterned or brightly coloured**)

Girls - Grey skirts, trousers or pinafore dress; white polo shirt, pale blue gingham dress (summer term only, unless this is extended into September via the App) navy blue school sweatshirt or school cardigan*
Plain grey, white or navy tights or socks (**not patterned or brightly coloured**)

* The school sweatshirts and cardigans are embroidered with the school logo and are available by ordering online with our suppliers Brigade.

We also offer, as optional extras, a summer cap and a winter hat embroidered with the school logo.

Outdoor footwear needs to be black or navy blue leather shoes and low heeled. Please note that trainers are not allowed as outdoor shoes. If they are necessary in special circumstances only, please inform us in writing.

Indoor footwear: Black plimsolls

Bows/hairbands should be small and in school colours.

Please ensure that all uniform and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please do not hesitate to come in to speak to us if you have any questions, concerns, or if there is any information that you need to share with us.

Yours sincerely,

YVONNE HEWSON
Headteacher