



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
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Information Letter for Upper KS2 Classes

September 2019

Dear Parents

We would like to welcome you back to a new year, whether you are returning after the summer or you are a new parent to Saltford School. We hope that your children settle happily and that you feel able to become involved in a partnership with the school, including all the varied activities the school and P.T.A arrange.

You and your child are now familiar with their new teacher and classroom. In order to maintain routines and keep your child safe, we would like to introduce you to (or remind you of) our expectations for daily procedures.

The school day starts at **8.50am** and ends at **3.15pm**. We understand that occasionally you get delayed and cannot always stick to these times, we are only human, however it can be very unsettling for children if they arrive late frequently and class has started. This is also true at the end of the day when most children have been picked up. All teachers will often have meetings directly after the end of the school day so this will delay the staff also.

We expect all children to be as independent as possible. In order to encourage this there are several things they need to do when they arrive at and leave school.

- **Morning Routine**
- **Please could Year 5 and 6 children access their class by walking around side of the school. Please do not use the school front door unless you are visiting the office.**
- **Teachers arrive at their classrooms at 8.50am. When children arrive, they put their things out ready and then go to the playground please.**
- **Parents and children say 'goodbye' at either the Wessex or the Music room.**
- **The children will then hang up their coats and bags (please be aware that cloakroom space is limited so please ensure bags are as small as possible.)**
- **Put reading folders in their place.**
- **Put drinks bottles in the correct places.**
- **The class teacher will then direct the children to an activity e.g. reading a book, morning work, etc.**

We thank you for your co-operation.

We kindly ask parents to remain outside classrooms as the corridors and cloakrooms get very congested at this busy time of the day.

We would like to remind parents that buggies should not be brought into the corridor because of the safety hazard they bring. We appreciate that you do not wish to leave babies or toddlers unattended outside so would like to suggest that you say goodbye to your child outside and allow them to go into school and organise themselves for the day. We would also like to remind you that all children, including pre-schoolers must dismount their bikes and scooters before entering the site.

Topics for the Autumn Term: This term our themed topics will be 'Tudors'. As the topics unfold we may request that children bring resources in to support our learning. Please make sure that these are always named.

Visits

As part of our autumn topic we will be visiting the Mary Rose in Portsmouth. The approximate cost of this will be detailed on a letter to follow, including relevant information. Year 6 will be visiting the Bath Children's Literacy Festival, with the cost of the trip to follow in a letter. Y6 camp will cost approximately £300 and the Year 5 Camp will be approximately £100. We will also be covering a range of other learning and we hope that you find the Curriculum Map, on the website, useful to keep track of what your child is being taught. There will be other opportunities such as sports festivals for the children to participate in but the cost of these, if any, will be a minimal voluntary contribution and subsidised by the school.

Snacks The school policy on snacks is to ensure that they should be a healthy option. If you would like your child to have a mid-morning snack, we encourage them to bring in fresh fruit or vegetables. The best snack for break time, are foods that they can eat outside and they can eat with their fingers. Chopped up, fruit or raw veggies such as carrots or

peppers are ideal. Breadsticks and wholemeal crackers are also great finger foods that can be spread with low-fat soft cheese. Please note: that the most recent guidance is that dried fruit is no longer recommended as a between-meal snack as its high in sugar and can be bad for teeth. Parents have asked about various shop purchased snacks, such as fruit winders and various breakfast bars etc. Most of these snacks are usually high in sugar. Water should be the only drink. Milk can be purchased through the [school milk service](#). **It is essential that your child has a named water bottle that is easy for them to refill during the day.** Thank you for your support

Nut and seed life-threatening allergy awareness: We have several children with severe life-threatening nut and sesame seed allergies and a reaction can be triggered by airborne contact. For safety reasons, we must insist that parents/guardians do not send children to school with peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella, cereal bars containing nuts etc. or indeed anything containing nuts or sesame seeds (i.e. on buns or snack bars.) This also applies our aim above to discourage confectionery for birthday celebrations – sweets and chocolates can contain traces of nuts and seeds. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding with this.

Birthday celebrations: We do not wish to spoil any child's birthday happiness but at the same time we do not want to add to the issues that we all know sugar causes for children. School council's presentation about the issues around sweets been sent in for birthdays can be found [here](#) and their presentations linked to our sugar smart campaign can be found [here](#). We are introducing other ways of celebrating your child's special day in school without cakes and sweets. We think these are choices for you to make for yourselves at home. So please do not send sweets, cakes or other treats into school when it is your child's birthday. You may wish to consider an Amazon voucher so the class can buy a book or a game for wet play as an alternative.

Golden Time: On Fridays, resposces may be brought in to play with during golden time, **as long as they are not too big!** These are to be kept in the classroom and not taken out to play. Please be aware that while we do our best to take great care of anything that comes into school, we would not recommend that your child brings anything of great monetary or sentimental value. **Please make sure they are named. We do not allow digital equipment such as computer games or cameras.**

Reading: We understand that after the long summer break you will be anxious to support your child's reading development. **It is very important that children read every day, and their reading records will be checked regularly to ensure that this is happening.** Twenty quiet minutes is all you need each day. It's amazing how this will aid your child's progress and will also support your child with the many reading activities that we do in school. *Reading to your child is invaluable.* Please see our presentation about how you can support your child's reading at home [here](#).

Homework: Reading books and reading folders should come to school every day. Spellings and spelling homework will be given to Year 5 and 6 from the first week in September on a Monday and will be expected in the following Monday. Maths homework is also given out every Tuesday and will be expected in by the following Monday. Please continue to log on to DoodleMaths to access this really excellent resource. All children have a TT Rockstars log in and they will be able to use this website to practice times tables. Children will also be given weekly English homework on Thursdays which will be expected in by the following Wednesday. Please contact your class teacher if your child is having difficulty with any homework.

In order to support the children's learning at home we suggest the following websites;
[TT Rockstars](#) and [Doodle Maths](#) (logins required)
[ict games.com](#)
[Topmarks](#)

Physical Education Indoor P.E. kit should be red plain or [Saltford t shirts](#), black shorts and daps (Velcro fastenings for shoes and daps please.)

Outdoor PE Kits should include long warm jogging trousers, a white T-Shirt, trainers and a fleece type jacket. Please keep these in school all week as sometimes we have to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	Hall	Outdoor	Swimming
JSB	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday 10.30 – 12.00
AB	Wednesday	Tuesday	Friday 10.30-12.00
NS	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1.30-3.00
JG	Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday 10.30-12.00

Swimming: Swimming lessons start the week beginning 9th September and take place up until the October holiday however, it really isn't possible to have the lessons without adequate support. Please see our [Keep Saltford Swimming](#) letter on the website. We do understand how busy everyone is but even helping once during the term makes all the difference. We also appreciate help from Grandparents! Please check the class rota by your child's classroom and add your name if you can help. **Helping with swimming requires a DBS form, you cannot help**

without one so please head to the office to apply. Please find all information about swimming on the [Office](#) section of the website.

Children require a bathing suit or shorts, a swimming hat and goggles. Please ensure that your child comes with their kit on their correct swimming day as we are sure you can appreciate that the school does not have the capacity to make numerous telephone calls for children who have forgotten their kit.

PLEASE ENSURE EVERYTHING IS NAMED!!

PPA Time: This is class teacher's support time away from the classroom:

JSB - Every Friday (all day – Mrs Brook)

AB – Every other Thursday (all day – Mrs Brook)

NS - Every Thursday afternoon (Mrs Hathaway to teach in Class NS every Thursday afternoon and Mrs Godwin all day Friday)

JG - Every other Friday (all day – Mrs Hathaway)

Lost Property: **Please make sure that everything is named.** This includes things like socks, shoes, hats, gloves, lunchboxes and drink bottles!! If everything is named, we will save a huge amount of time searching for lost items.

School Dinners: If your child is having a school dinner please can you ensure that they know what is available that day and whether they would like a vegetarian dinner (green) or a non-vegetarian (red). Class teachers require this information so that the kitchen can prepare the correct number of meals. The menu can be found on the school website. <http://www.saltfordschool.org.uk/the-office/>

Payments: Where payment for trips or events is required, the school uses School Gateway, an online payment system. A link to the School Gateway system is available on our website or through <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>.

Hair: We would like to request that all long hair (boys and girls) is put up for school in an effort to help prevent the outbreaks of head lice which are so common. Can all hair be tied neatly please, with only small clips and elastics to fasten them. Please see our uniform policy in the office section of the website for further information. <http://www.saltfordschool.org.uk/the-office/>

Theme Days/ Providing Costumes: Occasionally the school will hold theme days, special events or shows where we ask children to dress up or wear a specific item of clothing. These events are designed to be a fun support to topics and there is never any expectation for parents to provide elaborate outfits or spend money on expensive costumes. Teachers will give as much advice and guidance as they can for any event and choose themes that can be achieved simply with clothing already owned where possible.

In December we will be holding our annual KS2 Production. We will be sending out letters early in Term 2 giving guidance for what your child's costume will need to be. We appreciate your support with this and are sure that the children will look just as fantastic as they have in recent years.

Voluntary Classroom Support: We are always looking for parent helpers to support activities in school. Information regarding this went out in the newsletter in July. If you can help we are always very grateful- even if it is on odd occasions or only for a short period of time. DBS forms are available from the school office.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope that the year ahead will be a happy one for all concerned. Please do book an appointment with your child's teacher if there is anything you need to discuss with her – it is not always easy to have a conversation with the children present.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bowkett

Mr Boyle

Nr Styles

Mr Godwin