



Information Letter for EYFS Classes

September 2023

Dear Parents

We would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Foundation Stage and the start of your child's school career. This letter is intended to provide all the key information you need for this term. Please ensure that you read all newsletters, letters and access our website regularly as the term progresses. We also send regular text messages with important information. Please ensure to update your mobile numbers and emails with the school office. Please follow this link for guidance [here](#).

The Early Years Team are as follows;

Miss Davis Bumblebee Class - Class Teacher
Miss Hansford Butterfly Class - Class Teacher
Mrs Morgan - Teacher across the phase
Mrs Browne –HLTA Teaching Assistant
Mrs Knight – HLTA Teaching Assistant
Mrs Sewell –Teaching Assistant
Ms Pyle- 1:1 Teaching Assistant

You will have received your separate information regarding your split morning or afternoon sessions for the week beginning 4th September. Please be advised that Monday 4th September is an Inset Day. The first sessions start on Tuesday 5th September. Morning sessions will run from 8.40- 11.45 am and Afternoon sessions, 1.00pm- 3.15pm.

The week beginning 11th September, your child will attend a morning session and stay for lunch (8.40 am- 1.00pm) and from Monday 18th September they will stay all day (8.40 am- 3.15pm).

The register will be taken at 8.50am (the school gates close at 8:50am therefore arrival at school will be from 8:40am) and ends at 3.15pm. We understand that occasionally you are 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. Arrival after 8:50am will be marked as late and arrival after 9am will be an unauthorised absence for the morning – the attendance officer will arrange a meeting if this repeats regularly. This is also true at the end of the day when most children have been picked up. All teachers often have meetings directly after the end of the school day so children not being picked up on time will delay these staff.

We are very aware that this is your child's first school experience, however, we will encourage 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

- **Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants will meet you by the entrance to the EYFS classrooms at 8.40am and the children can walk into their classrooms independently.**
- **For Bumblebees this is on the line between the side of the classroom and Tiddlers. For Butterflies, please walk on the path around the side of the EYFS Garden (although adults with buggies can walk through the gates) and line up on the line nearest the Butterfly side gate.**
- **Once your child is stood on the line, please stand back to help the teachers see all the children in safely.**
- **We politely ask that parents leave the site as soon as their child has walked into the classroom.**

- **Please can you ensure that all of your child's belongings fit into one small bag. Please also bring in a drinks bottle and, once your child is staying for lunch, if you choose to provide your child's own lunch, that it is in a plastic lunchbox. Reading folders, once provided, will need to be brought in daily.**
- **The children will be asked to wash their hands as soon as they enter the school building and at regular points throughout the day to reinforce good hygiene habits.**
- **Pick up arrangements. It would really help us if you could let us know any changes to pick up arrangements no later than drop off of that day.**

Afternoon Routine

- **Please wait outside your child's classroom inside the EYFS garden where a member of staff will see your child to you.**

We thank you for your co-operation.

Topics for the Autumn Term:

Our topic for this first term is 'All About Me', we will also learn about 'Harvest Time' and 'Traditional Tales'. After the half term break, we will learn about 'Diwali', 'Dinosaurs', 'Transport', and Christmas. We will be learning about all kinds of families, our School and our likes and dislikes. The teaching of Phonics will be introduced through Set 1 and 2 sounds from the Read, Write Inc. scheme. We will also be learning about numbers and shapes.

Please keep an eye on Tapestry for any messages regarding things that you can do at home to support this.

Approximate costs

At Saltford School we believe that children are given every opportunity to experience an enriched curriculum which includes going on external trips and inviting visitors in. However, mindful of increasing pressure on household budgets, we endeavour to keep costs to a minimum. As a result approximate costs throughout the year for special events will be in the region of £40 (including trips, visitors and costumes).

Footwear

During break and lunchtime, the children will have the option of accessing both the school fields and the playground. We aim to get the children out in all weathers all year round and therefore ask that your children come to school with a pair of wellington boots that they can change into for these times. We have shoe stands to allow these to remain in school all week but just ask that all boots and shoes are named.

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 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 but is free until your child turns 5](#). **It is essential that your child has a named water bottle, preferably with a straw to avoid spillages, that is easy for them to refill during the day.** Thank you for your support

Nut, seed and lentil life-threatening allergy awareness: We have several children with severe life-threatening nut, lentil 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, lentils or sesame seeds (i.e. on buns, in humous 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.

Toys: Toys may be brought into school if requested as part of a class activity or display, however we ask that they are not brought in at any other points.

Reading: Reception children will receive their red reading folder, provided by school, at the beginning of October. In them you will find a reading record book which is a useful tool for communication between home and school as well as keeping track of reading activities. Initially we ask that you record books you are sharing at home and what your child has enjoyed or commented about them. We will provide a list of questions that may help you with your discussions. From the week beginning 2nd October there will be some picture and phonic based activity books for you to share and discuss with your child. If you are able to please spend ten quiet minutes, on these activities, each day, it's amazing how this will aid your child's progress. It's also really important to keep reading to your child as this is an invaluable time for both of you. Playing games (especially with dice) is excellent maths homework.

An information presentation about how we deliver Early Literacy skills at school will be in the school hall on Monday 18th September at 5.00pm. (A letter will follow shortly with more details) A maths evening will follow later in the term, on Monday 9th October at 5.00pm.

Physical Education

PE lessons are completed through an indoor and an outdoor games session

PE Kit:

Indoor kit should be red plain or [Saltford t shirts](#) and black shorts.

Outdoor PE Kits should include long warm jogging trousers, a red T-Shirt, trainers and a fleece type jacket. Please find a link to purchase our new Saltford School red sports fleeces [here](#). Please keep these in school all week as sometimes we have to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor
Bumblebee	Thursday	Tuesday
Butterfly	Tuesday	Monday

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: Foundation Stage children are not required to pay should they wish to have a school dinner. Alternatively, parents can choose to provide their child with a packed lunch from home. The menu can be found [here](#).

Payments: Where payment for trips or events is required, the school uses MCAS (My Child at School), an online payment system. You will have been sent details of how to register for an account and login for this from the office. If you need any support with this please contact the school office. Please click here for further guidance.

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. Please can all hair be tied neatly, 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/>

Voluntary Classroom Support: We are always looking for parent helpers to support activities in school. 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.

It is our aim to provide you and your child with a very secure and positive start to life at school by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum which prepares them for the joy of lifelong learning. We look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year and forming a strong and productive partnership with you all.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Davis
Bumblebee Class Teacher



Miss Hansford
Butterfly Class Teacher



Mrs Morgan
Teacher across the phase