



Information Letter for Year 1 and Year 2 Classes

September 2023

Dear Parents

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

You and your child will now be 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.

Please can we remind you of the new school day timing. Children should arrive at school **8.40am** and end 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. Registration will start at 8.50am (the school gates will also close at this time) - a late mark is received for any child arriving between 8.50 and 9am. After 9:00am your child will receive an unauthorised absence for the morning.

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

- **Year 1:**
 - Mrs Newark and Mrs Hayden's class:** Please bring your child to the top of the steps outside the classroom and wait for Mrs Newark or Mrs Hayden to come and collect the class. They will collect the class at 8.40am and walk them down to the classroom.
 - Mrs White's class:** Please bring your child to the classroom. Mrs White will open the classroom door at 8.40am
- **Year 2**
Miss Jupp and Miss Mulready will open their classroom doors at 8.40am. Please wait in the covered area with your child until they open the door.

Afternoon Routine

- **Year 1:**
 - Mrs Newark and Mrs Hayden's class:** Please collect your child from the top of the steps outside the classroom at 3.15pm.
 - Mrs White's class:** Please collect your child from outside the classroom at 3.15pm.
- **Year 2**
 - Miss Jupp's class:** Please collect your child from outside the classroom at 3.15pm.
 - Miss Mulready's class:** Please collect your child from outside the classroom at 3.15pm.

We thank you for your co-operation.

Year 1/2 Topics for the Autumn Term:

In Geography, we will be learning about **The UK and our locality.**

In History, we will be learning about **Guy Fawkes and local history.**

In Science, we will be learning about **Materials and Animals and Life Cycles.**

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, in hummus 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 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. Please rest assured we will still celebrate your child’s birthday in class.

Toys: We ask that the children **do not** bring toys in from home please.

Reading: We actively encourage your child to read regularly. Children benefit from having reading as part of a daily routine, so this could be before they go to sleep at night. Please continue to read with your child daily, ensuring you sign their record clearly marked with H for home reading. In year 2, some children might move onto our Accelerated Reader Scheme. We will send out information about this nearer the time.

Homework: All children will have reading folders. These should come to school **every day**. In them you will find three books from our reading scheme collection or two phonics books and one book from the reading scheme. 10-20 quiet minutes is all you need each day. It’s amazing how this will aid your child’s progress. **Reading to your child is invaluable.** Please see our presentation about how you can support your child’s reading at home [here](#). We will continue to send out spellings which will be tested each week in school. Year 2 children start regular maths tests, a letter will accompany this, and both year groups are encouraged to log in at least 3 times a week to Doodle Maths and Spelling (although children get most benefit from logging in daily for short bursts).

In order to support the children’s learning at home we suggest the following websites;

[TT Rockstars/Numbots and Doodle Maths, English and Spelling \(logins required\)](#)

[ict games.com](#)

[Topmarks](#)

Physical Education Indoor P.E. 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, (Please send velcro fasteners if your child is unable to tie their laces) and a fleece type jacket. Please keep these in school all week as sometimes we have to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	PE – Session 1	PE - Session 2
Pear (CW)	Tuesday	Wednesday
Apple (MN/RH)	Monday	Wednesday

Palm (NJ)	Tuesday	Wednesday
Cherry (CM)	Monday	Wednesday

PPA Time: This is class teacher's support time away from the classroom and will be covered by Mrs. Perrett (in Pear Class, Cherry Class and Palm Class). Mrs Hayden will cover Mrs Newark's PPA.

Teacher	Cover
Pear (CW)	Every Wednesday pm
Apple (MN/RH)	Every Thursday am
Palm (NJ)	Every Thursday am
Cherry (CM)	Every Wednesday am

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.

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 we set out below the estimated costs for the year:

Year 1 and 2:

Approximate costs throughout the year for special events will be in the region of £20 (including trips, visitors and costumes).

School Dinners: All Key Stage One children are entitled to Free School Dinners. Alternatively, parents can choose to provide their child with a packed lunch from home. 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 MCAS (My Child at School), an online payment system. <https://mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> You will have been sent details of your login for this from the office. If you need any support with this please contact the school office.

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/>

Outdoor Shoes: Please can children always have a separate pair of outdoor shoes in school as we would like to use the field at playtime and lunchtime wherever possible. These need to be waterproof.

Voluntary Classroom Support: We are always looking for parent helpers to support activities in school. Information regarding this will be sent out when we are able to restart this - including all the current safety details etc. 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 appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in and so warmly invite you to attend our "Welcome to the year" presentations taking place over the next two weeks.


Year 1 welcome meeting- Monday 11th September at 5pm.

Year 2 welcome meeting- Tuesday 12th September at 5pm.

The meetings will give you an opportunity to meet the team and ask any questions that you may have about the year ahead. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Regards



Mrs Newark



Mrs Hayden



Mrs White



Miss Jupp



Miss Mulready