



Information Letter for Year 5 and Year 6 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 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.

Children should arrive at school **8.40am** and the school day 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 already 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 school, 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. To encourage this, there are several things they need to do when they arrive at and leave school:

Morning Routine

- **Children are asked to come independently into their classrooms at 8.40am. They are expected to hang up their coats and bags (please be aware that cloakroom space is limited so please ensure bags are as small as possible) and then go straight into class where the class teacher will be waiting for them with an early morning activity to complete.**
- **Where possible, we ask that the children go straight to the classroom via the side gate entrance. If is more convenient for your child to come via one of the other entrances, this is fine.**
- **We politely ask that parents leave the site as soon as you have said your goodbyes. Some children can find it difficult to settle if they can see you outside.**
- **Please can you ensure that your child's belongings fit into one small bag. Reading folders will need to be brought in daily.**

Afternoon Routine

- **Please meet your child from the side gate exit or other agreed point at the end of the school day. We thank you for your co-operation.**

Year 5/6 Topics for the Autumn Term:

Our Geography topic this term will be: **North & South America /Sustainability**

Our History topic this term will be: **World War II**

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.

Welcome Meetings: We will be holding a meeting where you can meet your child's teacher in the school hall. **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 on the following dates:

Year 6: Wednesday 6th September at 5pm.

Year 5: Thursday 7th September at 5pm.

NB: These are the corrected dates.

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 5

Approximate costs throughout the year for any trips and Y5 camp will be in the region of £200

Year 6

Approximate costs throughout the year for any trips and Y6 camp will be in the region of £350

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 times are foods that they can eat outside, and they can eat with their fingers. Chopped up, fruit or raw vegetables 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 it's 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 to 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 to school when it is your child's birthday.

(accelerated reader add in as most off colours)

Homework: All children will have reading folders. These should come to school every day; **please could you ensure that your child reads at home for 20 minutes each day.** It's amazing how this will aid your child's progress both in reading and writing. **Reading to your child is also invaluable, whatever the age of your child.** Please see our presentation about how you can support your child's reading at home [here](#). When children have completed their book, they will be expected to complete a quiz on the accelerated reader app in school to ensure they understood the book and help staff direct them to their next text. This ensures that children in UKS2 are reading appropriate material for their reading ability.

Spellings will be given to Years 5 and 6 from the first full week in September.

Maths homework is also given out weekly in both year groups in the form of reinforcement of skills taught at school and an expectation of completing DoodleMaths and Doodle Tables **3x a week earning a minimum of 30 stars**. This will be monitored weekly in class and in Year 6 we use Seesaw for maths homework. Please help your child to get into a routine that works for you to enable them to achieve this.

Children will get English homework every week, this is in the form of reinforcement of previous work completed in school, and in Year 6 children will be given a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Book to use.

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](#) 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 PE hoodies. **Please note that PE hoodies are not part of school uniform.** Please keep PE kit in school all week as we sometimes have to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	PE – Session 1	PE - Session 2
AB - Horse Chestnut Class	Thursday	Friday
MG - Elm Class	Thursday	Friday
NS - Ash Class	Wednesday	Thursday - Please could children wear PE kit to school and bring school clothes in their bag.
JG – Oak Class	Wednesday	Thursday - Please could children wear PE kit to school and bring school clothes in their bag.

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

Teacher	Cover
Mr Boyle	Ms Harding Friday half day
Ms Gordon	Ms Harding Friday half day
Mr Styles	Mrs Hathaway every Thursday afternoon and alternate Fridays
Mr Godwin	Mrs Hathaway alternate Fridays

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: Key Stage Two children are 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. If your child is having a school dinner, please can you use the MCAS system (My Child at School) to make any payment. Please can we also ask that you go through the menu with your child to 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 , an online payment system. 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. **THERE IS HELPFUL GUIDANCE ON THE WEBSITE UNDER 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.salfordschool.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 side 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 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,

Year 5/6 Team