



Information Letter for Year 3 and Year 4 Classes

September 2024

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 at **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 from 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 independently straight to their classroom via the Claverton Road entrance and across the school carpark (which will be closed during this time) and round to the playground via this route. The children will then go straight round to their classroom where they will be met by their class teacher. If it is more convenient for your child to come in via the gate adjacent to Tiddlers Nursery, this is fine but we ask that the children walk straight to their classes.
- 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 all of your child's belongings fit into one small bag. Reading folders will need to be brought in daily.

Afternoon Routine

- Please meet your child on the playground at 3.15pm. Year 3 for the first week, please meet your child outside of the classroom.
- Please ensure your child knows where you will be waiting if this is not the playground. Teachers always let the children know to come back to the classroom if for any reason the person they are expecting are not there and we ask that you also give the same message to your children. We thank you for your co-operation.

Topics for the Autumn Term:

Our topics this term will be: **Local area including national parks** followed by **Stone Age to Iron Age**.

Our Science topics are: **Electrical circuits** followed by **Living Things (Animals and Humans)**

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.

Year 4 Welcome Meeting: We will be holding a meeting where you can meet your child's teacher in the school hall. The meeting 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 **Wednesday 11th September at 5pm.**

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 3

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

Year 4

As Year 3 with the additional cost of an exciting overnight camp which usually costs around £90. You will shortly receive a letter with regards to Year Four camp giving the full details of this, the payment plan and the date for the meeting nearer the time to go through all the details of this.

Footwear

During both break and lunchtime, the children will have the option of accessing both the main school field 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 or other suitable outdoor shoes 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 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 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 understand that after the long summer break you will be anxious to support your child's reading development as soon as possible and we actively encourage daily reading with your child. As we get to know your child in the first few weeks we will be assessing their reading level through our Accelerated Reader Scheme and making any adjustment to reading levels that are required. Your support and patience at this time is appreciated. In the meantime, please continue to read with your child daily, ensuring you sign their record clearly marked with H for home reading. We will be checking planners every week and rewarding those children who are regularly reading at home.

Homework: All children will have reading folders. These should come to school **every day**. In them you will find a book from our reading scheme collection and a Saltford School Planner. 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](#).

Spellings will be given to Years 3 and 4 from the first full week in September. They will be given the opportunity to practise these every morning in school but we do ask that in addition to this, they write 5 sentences in their planners with capital letters and full stops! Maths homework is also given out weekly in both year groups in the form of times tables to learn and an expectation of completing DoodleMaths **3x a week earning a minimum of 30 stars**. This will be monitored on a Friday morning in class. Please help your child to get into a routine that works for you to enable them to achieve this. 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

During Term 1, PE lessons are completed through an outdoor games lesson and a swimming lesson.

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, (Please send velcro fasteners if your child is unable to tie their laces) and a fleece type jacket.

Please find a link to purchase our new Saltford School red sports fleeces [here](#). **PLEASE ENSURE EVERYTHING IS NAMED!!**

Please keep these in school all week as sometimes we have to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor
Lime (KH)	Friday	Tuesday
Sycamore (SG)	Thursday	Wednesday
Maple (NJ)	Monday	Wednesday
Willow (RJ)	Monday	Friday

Swimming: We will be swimming in terms 1, 5 and 6. Please make sure your child brings in their swimming kit on the correct day. The timetable for term 1 is:

Class	Day	Time
Willow (RJ)	Monday	9-10.30
Lime (KH)	Wednesday	10.30-12
Maple (NJ)	Tuesday	9-10.30
Sycamore (SG)	Thursday	10.30-12

PPA Time: This is class teacher's support time away from the classroom and will be covered by Mrs Spincer (year 3), Mrs Dixon (Willow class) and Mrs Saunders (Lime class).

Maple	Every Thursday am
Sycamore	Every Friday am
Willow	Every Thursday am
Lime	Every Thursday pm

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 online app 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 (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/>

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.

A reminder that the Year 3 "Welcome to Key Stage 2" meeting took place in July and a copy of the presentation can be on our class pages on the website.

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 3/4 Team