



Information Letter for Year 5 and 6 Classes:

January 2024

Dear Parents

We would like to warmly welcome you back again after Christmas and wish you a happy new year. Thank you very much for your kind gifts and messages. We hope that your children settle back happily, and we can get back into the routines we had established before Christmas. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term.

We continue to expect all children to be as independent as possible. To maintain routines and keep your child safe, we would like to remind you of our expectations for daily procedures: Children should arrive at school at **8.40am** and the day ends at **3.15pm**. We understand that occasionally you may 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 attending these. 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 you 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 it 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.**
- **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.**

Geography and History for the Spring Term:

Our Geography topic between now and Easter in Y5 and Y6 will be **Biomes and climate zones**.

In History, Y5 and Y6 will be looking at **Victorians/Tudors**.

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.

Meetings:

Y6 SATS: We will be holding a meeting to give Y6 parents information about the Y6 SATS on **Thursday 18th January at 5pm.**

Y5 Camp and Health Education: We will be holding a meeting to give Y6 parents information about the Y5 Camp and Health Education on **Thursday 1st February at 5pm.**

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 snacks for break time are foods that they can eat outside and can be eaten 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.) Our aim above is 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.

Outdoor Shoes: Please can children have a separate pair of outdoor shoes in school as we use the side field at playtime and lunchtime wherever possible.

Reading: We actively encourage your child to read regularly. Children benefit from reading as part of a daily routine, so this could be before they go to sleep at night. If you are unsure about suitable reading material for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us in school. The children's planners and **Reading for the Stars bookmarks** are checked regularly so please could you encourage them to keep these up to date.

Homework: All children will have reading folders. These should come to school **every day**. In them you will find your child's reading book 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 5 and 6 from the first week back. 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 Doodle Maths **3x a week earning a minimum of 30 stars**. This will be monitored weekly 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 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 need to adjust our P.E. slots.

Class	PE Session 1	PE Session 2
AB - Horse Chestnut Class	Wednesday	Tuesday - Please could children wear PE kit to school and bring school clothes in their bag.
MG - Elm Class	Wednesday- Please could children wear PE kit to school and bring school clothes in their bag.	Tuesday - Please could children wear PE kit to school and bring school clothes in their bag.
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	Miss Harding alternate Friday morning/afternoon
Mrs Gordon	Miss Harding alternate Friday morning/afternoon
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 to make any payment. You will need to order your child's dinner by noon at the latest on the preceding day, otherwise your child will be marked as having a packed lunch. The menu can be found on the school website at <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 MCAS system is available on our website.

Hair: We would like to request that all long hair (boys and girls) is put up for school to help prevent outbreaks of head lice, which are so common. Please can all hair be tied neatly, with only small red and black clips or elastic 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.

Please do book an appointment with your child's teacher if there is anything you need to discuss with them – however it is not always easy to have a conversation with the children present.

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 of us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Gordon

Mr. Boyle

Mr. Styles

Mr. Godwin