



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
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Headteacher: Dawn Sage
Chair of Governors: Paul Cummings

Information Letter for Year 3 and 4 Classes

January 2024

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! We would like to warmly welcome you back again after the break. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas - thank you very much for your kind gifts and messages. It has been lovely to welcome the children back for a new term.

Thank you so much for continuing to support your children in their classes this year, we are looking forward to another exciting term!

In order to maintain the good routines we have established and continue to keep your child safe, we would like to remind you of our expectations for daily procedures.

Please can we remind you that all children should arrive at school from 8:40am and be picked up 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 after 8:50 up to 9:00am. 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

- **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 or at an agreed meeting place convenient to you. Please ensure your child knows where to meet you.**
- **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.

History and Geography for this Term:

Our Geography topics for this term will be **Earthquakes and Volcanoes**.

In History we will be exploring **The Greeks and The Mayans**.

Any (named!) resources you could bring in to support this work are always well received. 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.

PHSE – Our new sex and relationships curriculum will be studied in the summer term for both year 3 and 4. These will be communicated later in term 4 via a letter for year 3 and will form part of the year 4 camp meeting discussion.

School Visits: Year 4 will be going on camp in April (more details to follow in our meeting Monday 26th February) and we will be in touch about our exciting Greek day in LKS2 later in term 4!

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, 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 or snack bars and houmous) This also applies to our aim 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.

Toys: Unfortunately, children will not be able to bring in any toys or games from home. This also includes for Golden Time. We will ensure there are plenty of games and activities available in each class for this.

Reading: Please continue to read with your child daily, ensuring you sign their record clearly. The children's planners are checked regularly and dojo points given for consistent reading. Remember to encourage your children to take their Accelerated reader quiz in school as soon as they finish their book and don't forget to date the bookmarks in order to read for the stars!

Homework: All children will need to bring their reading folders every day. Daily reading is expected in some form at home. Ten 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 even when they are fluent independent readers.

You will also be aware that we have changed the way that we teach spellings in KS2. Your child will already have received their new spellings for this week and test days will continue to be as in the Autumn Term (Lime, Sycamore and Willow: Friday and Maple: Thursday). The only difference is that we are asking for their spelling sentences to be completed in their planners in the spelling section as we will be using the blue spelling homework books in school each day to reinforce the new spelling scheme. Maths homework is also given out weekly in both year groups in the form of times tables to learn and an expectation of 30 stars earned on Doodle Maths from the first full week. This will be the second Friday back (13th January 2024).

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](#)

As you will be aware, Y4 will be required to take part in the statutory Government Multiplication times tables check in the summer term. We will be holding a meeting to discuss this further with you also on Monday 26th February. Please see this [information for parents leaflet](#) for more information.

Physical Education

There will be indoor PE now and we ask that your child **brings their kit to school for the term**. This should be a red plain or [Saltford t shirts](#) and black shorts or jogging trousers and trainers (Please send velcro fasteners if your child is unable to tie their laces) and a fleece type jacket.

Class	Indoor PE	Outside PE
Lime (PNMB)	Friday	Thursday
Sycamore (SG)	Tuesday	Thursday
Maple (BB)	Monday	Thursday
Willow (RJ)	Monday	Thursday

Swimming: There are no swimming lessons in the Spring term.

PPA Time: This is class teacher's support time away from the classroom and will be covered by Mrs. Dixon for Willow Class and Mrs. Spincer for Sycamore and Maple Class.

Maple	Every Thursday
Sycamore	Every Thursday pm and Friday am
Willow	Every Thursday 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.

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 to help prevent outbreaks of head lice which are so common. Please can all hair be tied neatly, with only small red or black 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.

We would like to thank you for your continued support with all the additional safety measures we have continued to put in place and hope that the year ahead will be a happy and healthy one for all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Nethercott Mrs. Brook Mr Jenkins Miss Benton Mr George Mrs. Spincer

