

Dear Parents / Carers,



Hello and a very warm welcome to you all; I hope that you have had a wonderful Summer! The children have been busy settling back into school over the last week. The move up to Key Stage 2 can be daunting, especially after so much time off, and there are lots of changes for them to adjust to; however, I am sure that they will feel right at home in no time at all! Alongside myself, Mrs. Purdy will also be teaching your child this year (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon). I hope that this newsletter answers some frequently asked questions...

What does my child need to bring to school?

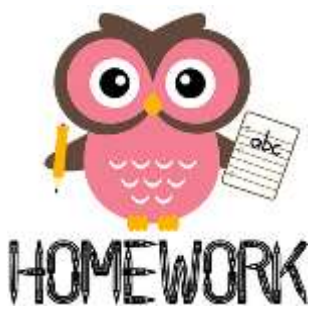
Due to the current climate, your child needs to bring as little as possible from home into school to minimise the risk of passing germs. This means no books from home, no show and tell, no PE kits, no pencil cases etc. Your child does need a bag, which in our case is stored in the cloakroom. They should bring a coat to school everyday as you know how unpredictable the weather can be and



we take the children outside in all weather conditions. Children also need a water bottle if they would like a drink during the day. This needs to be strictly water and not juice; not only because water is healthier but because if juice spills on the children's work, it will stain. Some children bring lunchboxes; there is more information about this below.

What homework will my child get in Year 3/4?

Homework is a great opportunity for you to get involved with your child's learning. As a school, we try to find the right balance with the amount of homework we send. At the moment, we won't be sending homework as normal due to Coronavirus and the risk of passing a homework book to and from school. We are looking into alternative ways of setting homework; as soon as we have come up with a safe way of doing so, I will be in touch. There are lots of online games and resources you can use to support your child's learning. TT Rockstars and Hit the Button are great for practising times tables. Children need to know all times tables (up to 12) by the end of Year 4. I have attached the Year 3/4 spelling list words if you would like to work on



these yourself at home. We will still be setting a homework project every half term linked to the topic we are studying. These projects give the children more freedom to be creative. However, these can't be brought into school as they usually are; instead you could send in a picture of their project or email it into school. I have attached some home learning ideas to support your child with their first project on our topic Blue Abyss.

How does the reading system work in Year 3/4?

By the end of the week, every child will have a reading book to read at home. This will be based on the coloured band system we used last year. Please don't be alarmed if your child is on the same or lower band than last year; the children have had a long time off and it will take some

time to catch up. I will be regularly reviewing your child's reading band. Your child will also be given a reading record. In the past, this would be a way of communicating between school and home; however, this is no longer possible so please use it for your own record and I will keep a separate record of your child's reading at school. Once your child has finished their reading book, they will place it in a quarantine box where it will stay for 72 hours. They can choose a new reading book on their band; the only issue might be if all of their band books are in the quarantine box, they will have to wait until they can choose a new one. Guided reading in class is also different this year and will no longer be done as a small group or one to one with myself.



What happens at break and dinner time?



In Year 3/4, your child is not provided with a snack at break time. If you would like your child to have a morning snack, please send them in with one. We are a healthy school so this needs to be a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable (or something else healthy); no crisps or chocolate please! We have some children with severe nut allergies at school so please do not send anything containing nuts. If you would like your child to have milk at break time, please arrange this at the office. School dinners are not free in Year 3/4; payments for school dinners should be made with the main office. If you think you are entitled to free school meals, you should also discuss this with the office. If your child brings a packed lunch, please ensure that this is healthy and, again, that it does not contain nuts. All children now eat their lunch in the classroom.

When is my child's PE day?

Mrs. Purdy does all of the PE with our class. Your child's PE days are Thursday and Friday. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on these days. They stay in their PE kit for the whole day. Please do not send a separate PE kit into school. Outside is the best place to be at the minute so as much PE will be done outside as possible. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.



In the juniors, we try really hard to encourage the children to be independent and responsible so please remind your child that it is their responsibility to remember their reading books, PE days etc. I hope that this information has been useful and hasn't bombarded you too much. These are very strange times and we just have to do everything we can to keep ourselves and others safe. As you know, I am expecting a baby so I am trying to minimise face to face conversations where possible. I am happy to communicate over the phone or via email. I am really looking forward to working with you and your lovely children this year!

Thank you for your continued support,
Miss Graham ☺ (Year 3/4 Class Teacher and SENDCo)