13th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to our new school year. It was great to see the children settle so well back into school. We look forward to the year ahead.

Value

Our value this term is Thankfulness. We will be exploring and encouraging an appreciative and thankful attitude, being thankful for things and people we often take for granted and how we show gratitude in practical ways.

P.E.

I know that these have already been communicated but the following days are the P.E. days for each year group.

Year 6 – Monday and Thursday

Year 5 – Monday and Wednesday

Year 4 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 3 – Thursday

Friday = Swimming

Year 2 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday

Reception - This will begin later in the academic year. The children are active throughout each of their days with access to the outdoor classroom at all times.

Homework

Our Homework Policy is currently under review and I wanted to share some updates regarding homework this year. Homework will be set from Friday 22nd September.

Year 2-6

* Spelling - Spelling lists are no longer sent home to practice for weekly tests and this was the case last year too. Spellings are now a daily session in school and is linked to and a progression of our phonics teaching.
* Reading – This is such an important skill and we do ask that the children read as much as they can at home but at least three times a week. The children in Year 2- 6 will have a Reading record sent home and if you could sign and date on three occasions each week to demonstrate that your child is reading regularly at home. In Year 3 and 4 we start to encourage the children to start to log their reading entries and just ask that you check and sign each week to validate that the reading has taken place. As with Spellings, there is a Guided Reading session each day in school where (Phonics does continue at the start of Year 2 before moving onto Phonics)
* Maths - this will be set on My Maths. Your child will already have a login to this account and we will share these again with you.
* English – We are exploring different programmes that will work in the same way as My Maths, so that homework can be accessed through a login, on line.
* English and Maths will then be set on alternate weeks.
* Science – As a school we use Developing Experts as a resource and each term, resources will be shared via this platform that your child can also login to access.
* Previously we have been keen to set Homework via Teams so that children were used to logging in from home in case there was a need for remote learning provision again. We recognise that more parents were finding this difficult to access. From this year onwards we will set up a Homework page on the website which will identify which subject is being set each week. Your child will bring home their login details for all sites, so that they can be accessed at home.

Reception and Year 1. The children will be set reading at home based on their Phonics sessions each week. Later in the term there will be a parent workshop for our reception parents which explains the process in more detail. Year 1 will be set homework, in line with the policy, as the year progresses but this will be dependent on the cohort and when the class teacher feels that they are ready to access the home learning platforms.

In Reception and Year 1 we use Tapestry to communicate with parents. If your child is in Reception, you will have been sent a login to this. For any child in Year 1, parents continue to use the same login used in Reception.

Medication

It is really important that if your child requires any medicine and has an Individual Health Care Plan written, that the correct medicine is in school and in date. Any unused medicines and empty bottles will be returned home as school is not allowed to dispose of medicine. If something has changed regarding your child’s medical needs, for example allergies, it is really important that you let the school know. We can then make a decision together as to whether the school nurse needs to be involved and if medication needs to be kept in school.

We do not administer short term medication.

Asthma

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma they do require their inhalers to be in school. If your child has been diagnosed since joining the school, please ensure school are notified, as we keep an asthma register. If your child no longer needs an inhaler but was placed on the school asthma register please inform the school of these changes.

Up to date contact details

We will shortly be sending a blank contact detail form home with your child, please ensure this is filled in so that SIMS can be updated and we have the correct contacts for you, in case we need to contact you regarding your child. We do ask you to provide three contacts per child, in case in any event we cannot get hold of you.

Stationary

We will provide all the stationary that the children need, we do not ask parents to provide this. Please do not send pencil cases into school as there is limited space in each of the classrooms.

Parents Evening

*These will take place on:*

*3rd and 4th October (Tuesday and Wednesday) for Reception*, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6

4th and 5th October (Wednesday and Thursday) for Year 2 and 4. The majority of appointments for Mr Hope will be available on 5th October, with a limited number available on 4th October.

More details will follow shortly

We will be following the Swindon calendar for term dates for the academic year 2023-24.

T D Days for next academic year

30th October 2023

2nd Jan 2024 3rd Jan 2024

19th Feb 2024 3rd June 2024

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Warburton