

White Bridge Primary School

Moving on to Year 3 – Information for Parents

As children currently in Year 2 move into Year 3, they begin a new Key Stage – Key Stage 2 (KS2). This is often still referred to as 'Juniors'. Now that this is a Primary School, many of the staff they encounter will be staff that they already know, but there will also be staff that are new to them. They will get to meet their new Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant in the last week of term (20th July), and will see which classroom they will be in.

This year, as you know, one of the Year 3 classes will need to be in Willow, because we do not have enough classrooms in the junior part of the school for the extra class. Please be assured that the children in this room will still be a part of all of the usual KS2 teaching and activities: they will be out to play in the junior playground and will attend all KS2 assemblies and events.

Dropping off and collecting children: Maple (Mrs Cobb) and Elm (Miss Duke) Class

You will need to take children in these 2 classes to the junior playground in the mornings. The bell goes at 8.55am, and children should come into the building at this time. Parents do NOT come into the building with them. The doors from the playground are open until 9.00am. **On the first morning only**, the class teachers for these classes will be in the playground, and on this morning only, the children will line up at 8.55am and the teacher will lead them in. Arrival after 9.00am is a late arrival, and children must come to the main entrance to be signed in, just as you do now.

At the end of the afternoon, the teachers will bring their classes out to the playground, via the same door that they have entered by. This will be at about 3.15pm. The Year 3 classes are upstairs, and several other classes also exit by the same door, so it can be a few minutes after this depending on the flow of children. Children will need to remember the same rule that if they cannot see the person collecting them, then they must go back to their teacher.

Dropping off and collecting children: Willow (Mr Poulter) Class

You will need to take the children in Willow class directly to the classroom door for 8.55am, where the class staff will let them in. If you arrive early, and want to let them spend a few minutes in the junior playground, this is fine, but please then walk them across to the Willow waiting area for 8.55am. If you arrive after 9.00am, children MUST be signed in via the main office as you do now please.

At the end of the day, the children will be dismissed via the classroom door directly to the person collecting them.

If you wish to direct your child to walk around to a different area within the school grounds to meet you, because you are collecting several children from different places, you will need to make sure that you let the teacher know. Otherwise they will hold on to the children until they see you, or the person who is collecting. By the time the children are Year 3, we expect that they will know who they are looking for, and will be able to identify that person.

It is not generally possible for you to speak with the class teachers in the mornings, as they are in their classes welcoming the children in and doing early work. If there is something you need the teacher to know that day, then please leave a message with the office. You can usually catch the teacher at the end of the day if you need a brief word.

Most things within school for the children will be a natural extension of their working in Year 2. They will continue to have Maths and English daily, they will cover all other curriculum areas, and will also do some topic work. As I am sure you would expect, as each year comes the work will seem harder, and the amount children are expected to write increases. They will not continue with daily KRM, but will have other phonic teaching every week to develop both reading and spelling. Maths will be taught as they have been used to in Year 2, within each class with appropriate differentiation. This year the KS2 classes in Year 3 will NOT be set by ability into upper and lower sets.

The biggest change is around reading and homework.

Reading teaching in school is organised differently in KS2, with teachers using group texts to teach and develop children's reading and comprehension skills. Children will still have reading sessions so that they work with the teacher on this each week, and teachers will note in reading diaries when this has happened. During these taught group sessions, the teacher will be assessing them, and teaching new skills as is appropriate. Your support at home remains vital, and the children will continue to bring home books and need to be reading these with you every day. They will also have regular times when they read their home/school book in class. Generally, the teacher will not be reading this book with your child, but will be reading other texts set at the right level for your child to make progress. Reading diaries are checked and signed regularly.....please don't stop supporting your child with this at home.

Some children who need it, will still have individual reading teaching.

Homework will also change as children begin KS2. Daily reading is still very important, so please take this as a given. In addition, children will be set spelling homework, a piece of English and Maths homework, for each week. This is usually set on a Monday, to be handed in on a Thursday. Sometimes, children may be given a longer piece to work on that may span more than one week, but each teacher will make this clear if it is a longer piece. You may already have looked at My Maths, following Mrs Mudd's letter, but you will in due course be given a pupil log in, as sometimes maths homework is set to be done on My Maths. (If any child does not have access to a computer, the teacher will be able to provide a paper version). Learning their times tables continues in KS2, and any practice that you can give with this at home, so that your child knows their times tables by heart will be of tremendous value to them in all areas of Maths.

Specific homework tasks will not be set in the first week of term, so that you can use this week as a settling in week to establish daily reading at home as the new term commences.

PE will be taught mainly by the class teachers in Year 3. The children need their PE kit in school all the time, the core kit is unchanged but children can have either plimsolls or plain dark trainers. Children can also have plain dark jogging bottoms in their PE bags, as they will go outside much more even when the weather is cold. Please remember that earrings **MUST** be removed for all PE and sporting clubs: if you are looking at having ears pierced, this needs to be right at the start of the summer break.

Lunch times and break times

Morning play is staggered most of the time, with Years 3 and 4 out together, and Years 5 and 6 out together. Children can bring a healthy snack if they wish, from the standard choice of fruit, vegetables or a small piece of cheese, or raisins. No other snacks are permitted at playtime. Unfortunately, we do not get free fruit for KS2, and although we sometimes have spares to share, this is limited. Children are not permitted to go to their lunch boxes at break times (these are already in the dining room ready for lunch time), and so playtime snacks need to be carried/stored separately.

Lunch time in KS2 is 12.30-1.30pm. Children take turns to be first, and so some children may not be called for lunch until about 12.50pm. School meals now need to be paid for, at a cost of £2.20 per day, £11 for a full week. Please send in money on Mondays, in a named envelope.

There will be an informal 'meet the teacher' opportunity on Wednesday 7th September from 3.15-3.45pm. You can come back into class on this day with your child, and say hello to your child's new teacher. **I will also host an informal session for any Year 3 parent with any general questions about Year 3 on Thursday 8th September from 2.45-3.15pm in the Junior Hall.**

Please note that Maple Class and Elm Class are upstairs. If any parent has mobility issues that make this difficult, please do call in to the office and let us know.

Mrs J Witteridge
Headteacher
JW/Transition