

White Bridge Primary School 2018

Moving on to Year 3 – Information for Parents

As children move into Year 3, they begin a new Key Stage – Key Stage 2 (KS2). This is often still referred to as 'Juniors'. We are a Primary School, and so children will already be familiar with parts of the building and some of the staff they will encounter in KS2. There will of course be some new staff, and some different ways of doing some things. The Year 3 teachers try to guide the children through these changes sensitively.

Dropping off and collecting children: all KS2 children (and Y2 from September 2018)

In the mornings you need to take children to the junior playground. The bell goes at 8.50am, 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 are in the playground, and on this morning only, the children line up once the bell goes and the teachers lead them in. Arrival after 9.00am is a late arrival, and children must come to the main entrance to be signed in. This is the same in all year groups.

At the end of the afternoon, the teachers bring their classes out to the playground, via the same door that they have entered by. This is at about 3.15pm. Several classes may exit by the same door, so it can be a few minutes after this depending on the flow of children. Children need to remember the home time rule that if they cannot see the person collecting them, then they must go back to their teacher. Children should not leave the school grounds without their responsible adult.

We expect all children to be met by a responsible adult or you as their parent, and the teachers try to look out for the collecting adults for the Year 3 children. However, it is busy in the playground at the end of the day, so it is really helpful if you can also re-inforce the message that they must go back to their teacher if they cannot find you. If you are also collecting children from the Infant side, and you want to make any arrangement for your child to walk around to you, please let the class teacher know at the start of term.

The big difference for parents of children coming in via the junior playground is that they will not see the class teacher in the mornings. This is because the teachers are generally in their classes ready to receive the children from 8.50am for early work. Classroom doors are not accessible from the outside of the building. If you have a message that you need the teacher to have, you need to walk around to the office and it will be passed on. At the end of the day the teachers do come out with the children, and so it is possible for you to catch a quick word then. Teachers may ask you to arrange an alternative time if you need longer than a few minutes, and we do ask that you wait until the teacher has ensured that children have safely connected with their responsible adult.

Most things within school for the children are a natural extension of their working in Year 2. They continue to have Maths and English daily, they cover all other curriculum areas, and still do some topic work. They learn to manage text books more within their work-which is something that does require practice. As I am sure you would expect, as each year comes the work seems harder, and the amount children are expected to write increases. A daily phonic session does not happen, but there is regular work each week to develop both reading and spelling. Maths is taught as they have been used to in Year 2, within each class with appropriate differentiation for different abilities.

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 still have reading sessions so that they work with the teacher on this each week, but the texts they use are not sent home. During these taught group or class sessions, the teacher teaches new skills as appropriate for your child, assessing what they can do regularly. Your support at home remains vital, and the children continue to bring home books and need to be reading these with you every day. They also have regular times, usually daily, when they read their home/school book in class. Generally, the teacher does not read 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 continue supporting your child with this at home.

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

Homework also changes as children begin KS2. Daily reading is still very important, so please take this as a given. In addition, children are set spelling homework, and a piece of English and Maths homework, for each week. Children also need to learn their times tables to fluency. Homework 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, 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 can provide a paper version).

Specific homework tasks are not to 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 is taught by both the class teachers and a sports coach (Mr Bromley) 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 black 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 always 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 £2.30 per day, £11.50 for a full week (from September). Please send in money on Mondays, in a named envelope, with your child as this will be collected at registration time. When children are in for last lunch, they can have seconds!

Equipment

We continue to provide children with the equipment they need to work, and so individual pencil cases are not required. In fact we ask them **NOT** to bring their own as it causes problems in class when items get lost.

Children also need to keep a traditional PE bag that will hang on their peg, and a book bag that will go in their drawer. Back packs etc should **NOT** be brought to school on a daily basis: there just isn't room on their pegs. The only day that children may bring a back pack/different bag is if they have an after school club that requires special clothing e.g. football. Lunch boxes can be carried in, they go straight onto a lunch trolley and are taken to the dining room first thing in the morning.

Uniform does not change.

There has already been an informal 'meet the teacher' opportunity which I hope many of you managed to attend.

Please note that some classes in the building are upstairs and if any parent has mobility issues that mean it would be difficult to get to the classroom, please let us know. There is a lift in the new part of the building which can be used if needed.

Mrs J Witteridge
Headteacher
JW/Transition