



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school and I look forward to working with you and your child this year. The children have made a smooth transition into Juniper as we had lots of time getting to know each other last term and they have stayed in their old classroom, I am very impressed with their transition and their attitude towards their learning.

Arriving and Leaving

The school day starts at 8.50am and registration is at 9.00 a.m. prompt. At the end of the day, children should be collected from outside Juniper Class. We ask pupils to tell us when they see the person who is collecting them so we can ensure all children go home safely. We are grateful for your patience whilst we do so. If your child is being collected by anyone different, please notify the class teacher or office.

Moving from year 1/2 to 2/3

In year 2 the expectation for the children is much higher than in year 1. In the summer term year 2 will have their SATs and in order to prepare them for these and ensure that they are as stress free as possible it is essential to start building the level of work expected from September. As the year develops year 2 will develop their independence and we are encouraging them to problem solve and persevere with their learning.

In year 3 the expectations rise again, although there are not any statutory assessments for year 3 it is important that they are challenged and stretched as they are working towards the Key Stage 2 objectives now.

Physical Education (PE)

The children will have outdoor PE on a Tuesday afternoon and a Friday afternoon with our 'Achieve for All' coach. Please ensure your child's full PE kit is in school all week and is clearly labelled. We will send kits home on a Friday to be washed.

Reading

New reading books will be issued this week, however the new reading diaries have not arrived yet for year 2, please continue to use last year's reading diary until they arrive and I can issue the children with a new one. Each book should be read 3 times before it is changed as this helps develop decoding, fluency and comprehension. When reading it is helpful to discuss what your child has read with them, what will happen next, the characters and their favourite part, this will develop their understanding of what they are reading.

Your child will read to an adult at school on a weekly basis as well as a guided reading session once a week. When we feel your child is ready to move to the next book band we will carry out an assessment to confirm this and record any changes in your child's reading diary.

Bug Club is another really usefully resource to support your child's reading development so please continue to use this at home with them.

Spellings

Your child will be given spellings each Monday to practise at home as we will have a spelling test every Friday. We will practise these words throughout the week in the classroom but it would really help your child if you can help them learn their spellings to the best of their ability at home as well. These spellings will vary between the common exception words and words containing the spelling patterns they are expected to know by the end of the year.

International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

This term our IPC unit of work is 'Hooray... We've been on holiday' we will discuss our experiences of holidays. We will look at the history of holidays and the variety of holiday options we have and how they might develop in the future. If you have any photographs or postcards from holidays that you don't mind your child bringing into school it would be greatly appreciated.

Homework

Alongside reading and spellings year 2 will also have English and maths homework to complete. One week they will have Maths homework and one week they will have English homework.

Year 3 will follow the same pattern, however their maths homework will be on the mymaths website.

Surprise Bag

In Juniper Class we have a 'Surprise Bag'. Each Monday a different child will be chosen to take the surprise bag home and put an item in it for the class to guess. Please can you help your child to think of and write 3 increasingly difficult clues for the class to try and work out what is in the bag. For example, if I chose a stuffed polar bear, my three clues might be: 1. This is something white. 2. This is something soft and cuddly. 3. This is something that would live in the North Pole if it were real.) Please return the bag to school on the following Friday.

Lunch options

Children will be able to choose their own lunch each morning during registration. Please read through the menu at home so the children have an idea of what they want and so you can check that they will like that option. This saves learning time in the morning as the children are prepared for their decision.

Snack Time

We provide free fruit for snack time (year 2 only, year 3 are welcome to bring fruit from home) and toast which can be paid for up front for a half term/term. During school hours we will continue to remind children to drink plenty of water. If your child would like to bring their own drink in a named drinks bottle, then please only send water. We are very keen to make sure that we have healthy classrooms and part of this is making sure that children do not graze on squash or fruit juice during the day which can seriously damage their teeth. Children will have access to milk and juice at lunchtime.

Sickness

We would like to remind you that if your child is off school due to sickness, they must not return to school for 48 hours.

Medication

The school is able to administer medication (both prescribed and unprescribed) which needs to be left with either myself or the office with a signed form giving your consent to administer the medicine.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me, I will be outside the classroom every morning from 8.40, where if necessary we can arrange a suitable time for a chat.

Kind regards,

Miss Robyn Hickman