



Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer break and are ready for the Autumn term. It has been great to see the children arriving back at school today, very enthusiastic and keen to work. There was a lovely, positive feeling in the school today. We welcome all of the Year 3 children and all of the other children who joined our school this year in other year groups. We also welcome Miss Lauren Self who is teaching in year 3.

### **Timings of the school day**

A reminder that the school gates open at 8.35am and children should not be at the gate unsupervised before this time. At 8.45am the bell is rung, children must be in the school grounds so that they can go straight into school for the register. Registers are taken at 8.50am. At 3.05pm school finishes. Children are dismissed from their classes at 3.05pm, which means they should arrive at the gate within the next 5 minutes, depending on how long it takes them to collect their belongings!

### **Sainsbury's vouchers**

Thank you to everyone who collected and brought in Sainsbury's vouchers, we received 26,262 vouchers (an amazing amount). This has enabled us to order free PE equipment and play time equipment. Thank you to Mr Carpenter and Mr Wilson who went through all of the equipment over the holiday to see what we needed and then placed the order.

### **Visit the Classroom**

On Monday 11th September we will be holding a 'visit the classroom' session. All parents/carers are invited in at the end of the school day to see their child's classroom. In past years this has been very successful, children love showing their parents their classroom and parents can see where their child learns. Children will come out of school at normal time 3.05pm and can then bring their adults back into school to see their classroom. Please do come along if you can.

### **HLTA**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Sam Campbell, one of our LSAs, has passed her HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) assessment and is now classed as an HLTA. This means that she can cover classes without a teacher present.

### **PPA**

This year PPA cover will be arranged in the following way: every class will have CM Sports for one session and either outdoor learning with Mrs Porter or French with Ms Piper for the other session.

### **Staff**

Ms Piper will not be in school at the start of term as she is still recovering from an operation. We hope to see her back by the start of October. Mrs Jenny Clark will be covering the PPA sessions until Ms Piper returns. Mrs Rook starts her maternity leave on Thursday. We wish her well and look forward to hearing news about her new baby.

### **Thursdays**

On most Thursdays I (Mrs Jones) will be out of school. Miss McGrath (as deputy head) will be in charge on those days.

### **Healthy eating**

The children are eating their snacks in class before going out to play. We are encouraging all children to bring in a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables are ideal). Children should not have chocolate bars or crisps as a snack.

### **Nut free school**

A reminder that we are a nut free school. We have 6 children in the school with severe nut allergies.



### **Dates**

We have provided you with dates for the coming year. It seems a long way off, but when we do the Christmas production we limit tickets to two per family. This year, the year 6 children will have the speaking parts and year 4 and 5 will be singing.

### **Voluntary contributions**

We try to organise exciting and stimulating trips and visitors to support the children's learning. These all cost money (travel by coach, the cost of the visit or visitor). We can only run a trip or have a visitor in if we get enough money, the school cannot afford to fund the trips. The school already subsidises many of these activities through school funds or PTA donations. Unfortunately, we will have to start cancelling trips if we do not get enough contributions.

## Reading challenge

We are celebrating those children who completed the reading challenge at the library. If your child completed the challenge over the summer, please can he/she bring in the medal, certificate or booklet on Wednesday 20th September. We are aware that the challenge doesn't finish until 16th September, so we have delayed our celebration of those who completed the challenge until after this date.

## Uniform

Often at the start of the academic year, children have new uniform. Please could you check that all uniform is named, especially green jumpers; it is so hard to reunite unnamed jumpers with their owner.

## PE kits

All children need to have a PE kit in school every day. If a child does not have their kit when it is their class PE lesson, then a text will be sent to inform parents that the PE kit was not in school. It is really important that children are able to do PE and that they have the right clothing to do this. We ask parents to support their children in this area.

## Coats

Please could you ensure that your child has a coat in school everyday as children will go out at lunch and break times, unless it is raining exceptionally hard.

## Outdoor shoes

All children must have a pair of PE shoes. They will use these when they go on the field and they will get muddy. We are trying to ensure that the school stays clean and free from mud and grass, so children will be expected to change into different shoes when they go onto the field and change back again to go indoors.

## After School Clubs

CM Sports multisports club starts Monday, 11th September and their football club starts Friday, 15th September – see their website [www.cm-sports.co.uk](http://www.cm-sports.co.uk) or the school office for booking information. Dance club will be starting next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, we still have spaces available, please ask for a letter if your child would like to join. We will be announcing the remaining after school clubs soon.

## Parking permits

To avoid congestion outside of the school at the start and end of the day, we have been given permission by Hampshire County Council to issue 'park and stride' permits. This will allow parents to park in the Victoria Road car park (only) between the times of: 8.30am – 9.00am and 2.50pm – 3.20pm Monday – Friday during term time only free-of-charge. The permits need to be displayed on the front dashboard and the car registration number written on it. If you would like a permit please see the school office.



## School Dinners – Autumn Term 2016

For those wishing to pay half termly, the cost for the first half of the Autumn Term is £73.10, or £10.75 per week. A reminder to parents and carers that all dinner money must be paid in advance or on the day of meals being taken. Our preferred payment would be either weekly or half termly as this will save any monies going astray or becoming lost in your child's book bag. Your child will still have the flexibility of opting to have a school dinner on a daily basis and any credit will roll over to the following week. If you prefer to pay cash please can you ensure that all dinner money is put in a sealed envelope and clearly marked with your child's name and the amount enclosed and sent in via your child's class teacher. We would ask parents, if at all possible, that all payments for dinners, trips, etc. be made via the on-line payment system.

## Music Lessons

Musical instrument lessons start this week; Monday - woodwind, Tuesday - violin, Wednesday - brass and Thursday - cello. There are still spaces for violin, woodwind and brass lessons so if you haven't signed up and your child is interested, please ask the office for a letter. Research stated that children who learn a musical instrument often do better at school.



Band lessons on the electric guitar, drums, keyboard or vocals are also available with iRock School during Friday mornings. Contact iRock for further information or to book on: 08006349310 or visit [www.irockschool.com](http://www.irockschool.com)

With all best wishes to you and your family

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Jenny Jones  
Headteacher