

Welcome to Year 3!

Here are a few details that we shared with parents at our Welcome meeting on Wednesday 10th Jul, 2019.

Who we are.

Year 3SGCS - Mrs Steggall will teach Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Giles will teach Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. Our LSAs are Mrs Single-Bloom, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Kielb.

Year 3LHLM will be taught by Mrs Humble on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Matthews will teach on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Our LSAs are Mrs Spiller, Mrs Fox and Mrs Kielb.

Let's communicate!

We are excited about working with you and your children next year. We believe that a successful year is had by all when we work as a team and communicate.

The beginning of the school day is always busy so if it is possible to catch us after school then that is best. However, if you would like to talk to us about something that cannot wait, then of course, please pop your head in the classroom in the morning.

Please feel free to e-mail us admin@christchurch.wilts.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Housekeeping

The school day starts at 8.40 and the register is taken at 8.50. It is important that the children arrive on time so that they can complete their early morning task which is set on a daily basis. Anyone arriving after 8.50 will have to sign in at the office. Water bottles and snack boxes need to be brought into the classroom so that they are easily accessible throughout the day. Coats go in lockers and lunch boxes go in the cupboard at the end of the corridor. All parents will need to fill in a form when bringing in any medicines. Inhalers and epi-pens are kept in the classroom once they have been signed off at the office. Bags are to be kept in the children's lockers.

What's in the bag?

Children will need to bring their Learning Log and reading book to school every day. We ask that they do not bring in pencil cases as we have everything they need in the classroom. PE kits need to be labelled and kept in a separate, named bag. Please don't allow your children to bring toys into school as these often get lost or broken.

Snacks and Lunch

In Key Stage 2, snacks are no longer provided. The children decided, a couple of years ago, that snacks should be fruit or vegetables across the school, so please provide your child with a healthy snack. These are kept in the classroom, separately from lunch boxes so that no one has to rummage around in their lunch box to find their snack.

Similarly, the children agreed that packed lunches should be as healthy as can be tolerated! The school wouldn't dream of legislating – we know that children can be picky eaters. But having sugar awareness, especially where drinks and yoghurts are concerned, would make a difference. A quick reminder – no nuts please!

How you can help at home.

The three most important ways to support your child are learning their times tables, learning their spellings and reading regularly. We will also be sending home occasional “flipped classroom” activities.

Both classes have reading rabbits/book bears and maths monkeys. These are sent home weekly to anyone wishing to either review a book or complete some sort of maths related activity such as cooking, measuring heights or keeping a diary of events and times during a day. The idea is to engage the children in making connections between learning at home and at school. All children who take home the maths monkey or book bear will be given the opportunity to share what they have learnt with the rest of the class.

Homework

From time to time, the children will be asked to complete a “flipped classroom” activity. This means they will be asked to read or watch some information (which we will provide) to find out about something we will be learning about the following week. There may well be no written activity, although towards the latter part of the year, we might ask children to research a topic themselves using recommended websites and they might like to make some notes. If your child doesn't do the activity, they won't be armed with the information they need for the lesson, so please let us know if there is a problem. Please don't let it become a battle at home though. Although it would be great if you could support your child when they do their task, ultimately it's their homework, not yours, and we encourage taking responsibility and being independent in the children. There will not be a set day for these activities and it won't be every week. However, we will ensure that the children have at least a week to carry out the task.

Spelling

For the first term we will be concentrating on the common exception words. Your child will bring home a booklet with the words they need to learn. We will give the children two weeks to learn the words and then they will all be tested. Any words they get wrong will be flagged up in the booklet to look at again. This will continue for the first term and then we will review how we are going to proceed. Tests will take place on a Tuesday in both classes.

Reading

Reading should be for enjoyment, but it's also the doorway to so much other learning. Reading to your child as well as hearing them read develops a love of story. We all lead busy lives, but if you can read with them often, it makes all the difference to their progress and creates good reading habits. Some children are technically reading now and discussion

about the book rather than just reading it becomes increasingly important to ensure your child is reading with comprehension.

Please write a note in the Learning Log when you read with your child. When we read with your child, it tends to be a text selected by us for a Guided Reading activity, rather than their independent reading book. The Learning Log helps us to keep track of the text choices your child is making and ensures it is an appropriate book for them. Your child is welcome to borrow books from our reading corners or to read something from home or the library. Whichever they choose, that book needs to come to school daily.

Times Tables

We will continue to follow the times table scheme that your child will already have started. We will keep you up to date with what they should be working on by marking it at the back of their Learning Log. We will test weekly where possible but this does rely on parent support. If you think that you can commit to helping out with the testing of times tables on a weekly basis then please let us know. (We will, of course, show you how it all works.) DBS clearance would be required.

Ideally we would like to test on Wednesday or Friday afternoons.

PE

The children have 2 sessions of PE a week. On Thursday, they will be taught by a specialist teacher. They need to come to school wearing their PE kits and will come home wearing them. However, this is not necessary for class PE so the children need to remember to bring in their PE so that they can change for class PE. The first term, class PE will fall on a Friday. Please could you ensure that all PE kit is clearly labelled. May we ask you to remember that all earrings must be removed or covered with tape (parents to supply) and that long hair must be tied back.

Developing Independence

At the heart of our school's philosophy are the ELLI dimensions, and the one dimension that comes to the fore in Year 3 is independence. The children are encouraged not only to do things for themselves, but also to take responsibility. All too often we hear "My Mum didn't put my homework in my bag."! As the year progresses, the children begin to realise that it's their homework so they need to put it in that bag! It helps enormously if this push for independence is reflected at home too, if possible. Easier said than done sometimes, when you're trying to get everyone out of the door on a cold, winter morning, but if you could encourage that independence at home when possible, it will reaffirm what we're trying to do at school.

How you can help at school.

We really appreciate any help that you as parents can offer us at school.

We would love to have you if you are able to help regularly with spelling testing, times tables testing or listening to readers.

Equally, we would love to hear from you if you are able to help out on school trips or with accompanying us back from the swimming pool (once a week for 6 weeks in terms 5 and 6).

If you have any special talents then let us know. It is always wonderful to have specialists in to talk to the children. We have a STEM week next year and would love to hear from you if you might be able to help out. Once again, DBS clearance is necessary. This can be organised through the office.

Happy holidays!

We hope you have a wonderful break, whether it's at home or away. It would be lovely to hear from your child over the holidays and, to that end, we're giving every child a blank postcard on which they can draw a special moment they've enjoyed over the break. Pop it in the post or your child can bring it with them on the first day back when we will all share each other's news.

We look forward to sharing the year with you and your child. See you in September!

With kind regards,

The Year 3 Team