



22nd April 2010.

Welcome to St Marys Junior School!

Dear Parents,

In order to give your child a good start at St Marys Junior School, we'd like to share some information about routines and what will be happening so that you and your child know what to expect in September! Our priority is to make your child feel settled and happy at their new school.

Miss Smith and Mrs Smith, the current Year 3 teachers, have put this letter together. You will find information about the Transition Programme and other bits and bobs that will be useful for you to know!

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 27th April

Miss Smith and Mrs Smith (*confusing isn't it?!*) will be spending a day with the children and staff in Year 2 to get to know everyone and see how things work at the Infant School. They will spend time talking to the Year 2 teachers about the children's needs.

Thursday 29th April

An informal drop-in (3.45-4.30pm) for children and parents to do some activities in the Year 3 classrooms at the Junior School with current Year 3s on hand to answer any questions.

Friday 7th May

Following the success of the visit to share India projects, the Year 2s will be invited back to the Junior School (9.30-10.30am) to meet up with their buddies and have another guided tour in the form of a Summer Hunt! They will then have story time with the current Year 5s so that when they start in September they won't find the Year 6s daunting.

Saturday 19th June

Year 2 children and families are all invited to come along to our school fete, it's from 2.00-4.00pm!

Monday 21st June

At 6pm all current Year 2 parents are invited to have a chat with Mr Lee about the routines at our school and preparation needed for September. Meanwhile, the children will enjoy storytime and hot chocolate in their pyjamas with Miss Smith and Mrs Smith! The school uniform sales people and school dinner providers will be providing displays so that you can find more information about their services.

Thursday 24th June

A second informal drop-in (3.45-4.30pm) for children and parents to do some more activities in the Year 3 classrooms with current Year 3s on hand to answer any questions.

Tuesday 29th June

Induction Day for all Year 2 children. Come and meet your new teacher in your new classroom! The day starts at 8.50am when the children will be met by their new teacher on the playground. They can wear their own school uniform and bring a healthy snack for morning break. They will need to bring a packed lunch or they could try a hot dinner for £1.70. They will have an hour for lunch (12.00-1.00pm) and 2 breaks. They will need to be collected on the playground at 3.30pm.

Monday 6th September

The new school year starts.

Other routines:

Homework:

Homework will be given out on a Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday. The homework will be varied-the most important thing is for your child to establish a routine of taking homework home and bringing it back by the correct day. (If your child is struggling with their homework, they must never worry. They can come and ask their teacher for some extra help). Please sign your child's homework diary each week and make a comment if you wish. You can also use the homework diary as a way of communicating with your child's teacher.

Reading:

Please encourage your child to read each night and sign your child's reading diary. It's really important that they continue to build on what they have learnt so far at the Infant School. Once they become free readers they can read to themselves but until then they will benefit from being heard read regularly at home.

Number Bonds

We encourage the children to learn their number bonds and times-tables at home as well as at school. The children complete 'Number Bond Challenges' every Tuesday (50 questions in 5 minutes) and this continues right through to Year 6 to develop the children's quick recall.

Phonics and spellings:

Your child will be placed in a phonics group based on their learning needs. The whole of Lower School sets groups for phonics and all children receive 20 minutes of phonics every day. Spellings will be given out on a Monday in phonics to be tested on the following Monday, your child should practice the spellings in their spelling journal and make sure it is brought into school on Mondays.

P.E:

Once a timetable has been organised we will let you know when the children have P.E lessons-please ensure that their kit is named. In cold weather they are advised to wear tracksuit bottoms.



Book bags are recommended for the transportation of homework diaries, reading books, letters etc. Children should also bring named pencil cases with basic equipment (including pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, rulers etc). Glue and scissors will be provided.

Those children having a packed lunch will need to bring it in a named lunch box/bag and dinner money should be put in a brown envelope to be given to the class teacher. School dinners will cost £1.75 a day from September 2010.

We encourage the children to bring in a named water bottle so that they have easy access to water in the classroom, and also a healthy snack for morning break.

Volunteers!

If there are any parents who would be able to give up a little free time to come and help with the children, whether it be hearing readers, working with small groups or helping with art projects, we would be most grateful!

At the beginning of the Autumn Term we will provide you with a list of the topics we will be covering so that you know what your child is learning about- they may even want to do extra research of their own on a topic area of interest!

Mrs Rhodes, our school administrator, has asked if you could look at the enclosed Peripatetic Music letter in case your child would like music lessons in September. She has also enclosed a Data Collection Sheet which needs to be completed and returned to our school no later than **Friday 7th May**. This information includes vital contact details and therefore must be returned.

If you have any queries, concerns, offers of help or you would just like to come and meet us, please feel free to pop in for a chat!

Many thanks,

Miss Smith and Mrs Smith