



Friday 9th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! I hope you have had a fantastic summer and that your child has begun to settle in well in their new class. I thought it would be useful for you to have some information about learning, homework and expectations for the year ahead.

Trips and In-School Events

The trips and in-school events for this year are still in the process of being booked and as we get more guidance about what we're going to be able to do this year we will share more information with you.

Key Dates

The school newsletter and website have full information about the term dates, whole school events and INSET days. Trip dates will be confirmed at a later date.

Pencil Cases

Children will be leaving their pencil cases at their desks each day to ensure that everyone is prepared to learn. Please ensure that they have the following essential equipment: pencils, sharpener, and rubber. Other items they may wish to have are colouring pencils, glue stick and ruler.

Children are not allowed to bring toys of any sort in to school. This includes anything that would be distracting in a learning environment e.g. a large selection of animal rubbers or fiddle toys unless permission has been given. Children who require sensory items to enable them to take part in daily school activities will have them provided and they will be kept in school.

Curriculum

Overviews of what the children will be learning can be found on the school website:

<https://stmarysprimary.org/learning/year-3>

Homework

Homework reminders will be set on the Google Classroom; children will be shown how to access these during the first few weeks of term. We have steadily reduced the amount of homework over the last few years. Our focus now is on things that can be done at home which will have the greatest impact on the children's learning. This year there are no plans to set spelling homework as we are having a much larger focus on this in school. However, children are expected to:

- **Read** at home at least 5 times per week for 20 minutes or more. Reading should be a mix of reading aloud and reading independently. Please support this by making sure your child has some time each day to do this without interruption from conversation, television or the temptation of gadgets. Reading should be recorded in their homework diaries; these will be checked once per week.
- **Practice their times tables**. We will be using the Times Tables Ladder that some of you may be familiar with if your child has had an older sibling in Year 3 recently. We are going to start by checking the children's knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables as the expectation is that they should know these from Year 2. They should be practising the times tables they are working on at least 3 times per week, this can include online games/songs/practice tests/games with arrays etc. This does not need to be recorded.

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Home Learning

In the event that your child needs to self-isolate we will be setting home learning on Google Classroom. This is only to be completed if children are not attending school due to a positive Covid test but they are well enough to work. Your child will not be expected to complete this work if they are unwell and need rest.

Uniform

Children are coming in looking neat and tidy each day, which is brilliant. PE kit should be worn on Mondays and Wednesdays for PE. In order to keep classrooms well ventilated we are keeping windows and doors open most of the time, which means the classroom can feel a bit chilly. Please make sure children are suitably dressed so they do not feel too cold. Children must not wear any jewellery with the exception of small stud earrings or a watch. Under Surrey Schools Health and Safety Policy, children may not wear earrings for PE/Games or any school sports activities including tournaments and dance performances. We therefore ask that if your child has not yet had their ears pierced you refrain from allowing them to do so until the start of the summer holidays next year when there is enough time for the piercing to heal.

Helping in School

At present, we do not plan on having adults in to help until we get to know the children better, in the event that we would like parents to volunteer we'll send out a message.

Communication

Teachers are available via email, Dojo or written letter. Please note that any absences or urgent messages should be sent to the office (with class teachers copied in). We will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible but do remember that when we are teaching we won't see messages until the end of the school day. If you have a concern, the first port of call should always be your child's class teacher. If you feel you need to speak to someone else get in touch with the year leader first who will liaise with the relevant members of staff.

We are looking forward to working with you this year to make your child's year memorable and fulfilling. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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