

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
**SOUTHBOURNE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

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12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to Southbourne Junior School and the start of the Autumn term in Year 3! It has been wonderful to meet the children on several occasions towards the end of year 2 and we can't wait to see what determined, enthusiastic learners they are. Below is some information which highlights the main aspects of school - it is not exhaustive and there will be mini notes sent home, pinged to you, or posted on the school website throughout the year.

Please remember that you are always welcome to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, simply phone, email our school office or catch us on the playground at the end of the school day. Most information, which is important to you as parents or carers, is on our school website. Here, you can find our half termly 'learning journey' grid (select children tab and then Merlin/Osprey on the side menu), which shows you an overview of what your child will be learning in each subject. Autumn 1 is a History based learning journey centred round the question, 'What is the secret of the standing stones?'

### **Class Agreement and Rewards**

As a class we have talked about our expectations of each other and written a class agreement which identifies what the children consider to be important in their class.

As a reward for good achievements/behaviour, the children earn dojo points to spend in the Dojo Shop. The children will be collecting these rewards with a view to the shop opening in the Autumn 2 term. They can choose to spend their points as they earn them on items which will be decided by our school council.

Look out for a Southbourne Juniors 'Growing Learners' postcards, which are linked to our school values of P.R.I.D.E., this is very exciting because no one knows whose letterbox the postcard will fall through. Additionally, we celebrate our P.R.I.D.E. values through our classroom displays where the children can write their names by the value they have shown.

### **Reading**

If there is one thing you could do at home, which will have the greatest impact on your child, it would be to read!

Reading is not just about learning/knowing the words on a page. The effects of reading involve skills, which when combined, offer a child an increased sense of empathy, knowledge, concentration, critical thinking skills, language skills and of course a deeper imagination!

So, please do read with your child as often as possible and try to engage your child in conversation about what they are reading. The reading miles chart at the back of the home school diary needs to be signed each time your child reads aloud to an adult, when they reach a multiple of 25 they earn a certificate.

The children will be able to regularly change their library books so please make sure they bring them into school every day and treat them with care.



### **Homework**

This will begin on Monday 11th of September. It will be set on a Monday and reviewed on the following Monday where we will begin our day with marking the homework as a class.

Maths homework - Each week your child will be given 5 arithmetic based maths questions to answer. In addition, this term we will be using a web based maths tool called 'Numbots' for maths activities to complete at home and school. Numbots focuses on understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction. This aspect of maths impacts most other areas of maths learning and so it is really important to practise these key skills at home. There will be more information on accessing numbots at our welcome meeting on Wednesday 13th September.

Reading homework - Each week we ask that your child reads to an adult at least 3 times and this is logged in their homework diary. This can be any text e.g. library book, personal book, magazine, newspaper, recipes, letters. The broader the range of genres the children read, the better their understanding will be when writing these genres in the classroom.

### **PE**

We have PE lessons on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure that your child keeps their PE kit in school. Our school PE kit is: white t-shirt, black or navy shorts, black or navy tracksuit bottoms, black or navy jumper and trainers. It is essential that your child has the correct PE so that they can take part in these lessons comfortably. If your child wears earrings then they must remove them for PE lessons. If they cannot do this then we ask you to supply micro pore tape in order for them to cover their earrings.

### **Uniform**

We will endeavour to conquer the never ending battle with mislaid jumpers etc., however, please ensure that every item of your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name, including PE kit, so that when items do go missing they can be quickly reunited with their owner!

As the Autumn/Winter season approaches, we ask that your child has wellington boots in school and wears a coat too so that they can take part in any outdoor learning and can make use of our field at break time all year round.

### **Wednesday morning**

Mrs Gifford (Osprey) and Mrs Hall (Merlin) will teach on Wednesday mornings this half term. During this time, the Year 3 team will be planning all the exciting learning experiences for the next week.

### **Important Dates**

13th September - Welcome Meetings

15th September - School trip to Butser Ancient Farm

We cannot express how much we are looking forward to growing and nurturing your children over this next academic year.

The Year 3 Team

Mrs Boiron, Miss Brown, Mrs Buncle, Mrs Day and Ms Ferguson