



St George's School Bourton

A Church of England School

*work together, play together
learn together ... shine!
"Let your light shine" ~ Matthew 5:16*

Church Track
Bourton
Gillingham
Dorset
SP8 5BN

Headteacher: Mrs Jillian Farndale

Phone 01747 840409
E-mail: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Badgers

It was fantastic to welcome all the Badgers' children back to school last week and to meet some of you at our Meet the Teacher meeting on Monday. This letter is just to let you know our routines and what to expect in Badgers' class.



Staffing

Mrs Shears teaches all day on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Wednesday mornings. Mrs Welshman teaches in Badgers all day on Thursday and Fridays. On Wednesday afternoons both Mrs Milsom and Premier Sports will teach for an hour each. Miss Gregory and Mrs Rose will be supporting us as teaching assistants in the class throughout the week.

The school day

A copy of our timetable can be found attached to this newsletter. Our PE days are Mondays and Wednesdays. We do ask that PE kit is in school every day please as sometimes we have impromptu lessons or visitors in for extra sessions at short notice. We do both outside and inside PE so the children will need trainers for outside as part of their kit. As the weather gets cooler, plain, dark jogging bottoms and dark, plain jumper or the school PE hoodie will be required to. Please ensure everything is clearly named.

What pupils need

We try to keep what the children bring into school to a minimum; we have very little space in the cloakroom. We kindly ask that pupils only bring in the following items:

- Water bottle (essential, named)
- Lunchbox (if not having hot lunches, named)
- Snack – fresh fruit and/or vegetables only please. Please ensure it can be identified by placing it in a **named** tub or bag because the children put these in a box until playtime.
- School reading book and reading record – ideally kept in a separate wallet or bookbag in case of drink spillages.
- Coat with a hood (essential) – we like to ensure the children have some fresh air, even if it is drizzly, so please ensure your child brings a substantial coat every day.
- Hat and sun cream (Over the next few weeks if appropriate. We suggest keeping hats in bags at the moment as you never know when you will need them.)

- Thursdays they will need their green mental maths and spellings folder (coming home soon).

All other equipment, including pens and pencils, are provided so please do not bring these into school. We have also reminded the children that they should not bring any toys, games or other belongings to school.

Homework

The children will have mental maths and spellings to learn on a weekly basis. These will both take place on a Thursday with Mrs Welshman. The children will be tested on the previous week's work and given new sheets for the following week. We recommend pupils complete these everyday rather than all in one go, as research shows 'little and often' is far more effective than one big chunk.

Reading remains crucial at Key stage 2 and we recommend your child reads at least 4 times a week at home to an adult and records this in their reading record. It is also hugely beneficial for children to hear books being read to them, often at a slightly higher level than they can read themselves. We know they enjoy our class reader each day in school.

We generally do not set other homework, although we may have an occasional research project based on the class topic. If this happens, we will let you know via our class email. However, children are welcome to conduct their own research at home on any of our topics and bring it in to share with us all.

Children also need to continue to learn their times tables. The national expectation is by the end of Year 4, all children know all multiplication facts up to 12x12 with quick recall. We highly recommend pupils use TTRockstars to help develop fluency with their recall of multiplication facts. We use it regularly at school, but it would be beneficial if they could try to do it 2-3 times at home too. In June, Year 4s will take part in a National Multiplication Tables Check (MTP) and we want to ensure they are as prepared as they can be.

Class topic

Our topic this half-term is 'Anglo-Saxons'. To support our learning on this, we have arranged to take the children to the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne on 3rd – more details to follow soon. Just to allow you time to prepare though, there will be a parental contribution for this (approximately £15 which covers entry to the centre. We have sought a grant which will cover the transport fees). Additionally we will be looking for 3-4 adults who will be willing to come free of charge to support us for the day.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. Our emails is: badgersclass@bourton.dorset.sch.uk If you have an urgent message in the morning however, please also email the school office directly or let us know at the gate as we can not guarantee that we will always see it before the start of the school day.

Kind regards

Mrs Shears

Mrs Welshman