

Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Martin Geraghty



*With God's love,
all are encouraged to thrive.*

Thursday 13th June 2024

Dear Year 2 Parents

Transition to Year 3

Later this half-term, your children will meet their new class teachers for next year. They will spend time in their new classrooms and start to learn more about life in 'the juniors'. Being a primary school, our transition is easier than for some but there are some changes to be aware of as the children progress in to what is also known as 'Lower Key Stage 2'.

The most important part of any transition is communication. Please do spend time talking to your children about all aspects of the transition and the changes they will see, and if you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher. Alternatively, I am at the gate most mornings.

Some of the changes:


1. In Key Stage 2, teachers don't come out in the mornings. Although they will do this for the start of term so you can get to know and recognise them, it is better for the children's developing independence that they enter school directly and say good morning in the classroom. We will support all children who find the new routine or the start of the year tricky, but it is in their best interests if you drop them off just outside the gate. We will always come and help guide them in, and will discuss any longer lasting challenges with you, but we do ask parents in Key Stage 2 to remain outside the school gate please.
2. Your children will walk around the left-hand side of the school and enter the school using the door at the back of the library. Children who enter school once the gate is closed, should be brought to the main office and signed in.
3. Registration doesn't change. Gates open at 8:45am for all children, with the register being taken at 9.05am. All children are expected to be in class and ready at this time. After this, children will be registered as 'late.'
4. Children should continue to have a morning snack in school each day – healthy snacks will best support their focus and energy levels, so these are preferred please.

5. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for what they need to bring to school. Helping them to plan or make a schedule for when they need to complete and return homework or remembering when library day is will really support their organisation skills. Children can continue to use a school book bag, but if you are buying a rucksack, please be aware that storage space is very limited in our school.
6. With your help, children should ensure they have their water bottle and lunchbox (or have helped you pick their school dinner) each day, and they should know where their PE kit is (with everything packed) so that it comes in to school on the first day of each half-term and goes home for washing at the end of each half-term.
7. **Please note:** although it is very tempting to buy stationery and coloured pencils etc, we would rather children don't bring in their own property. School will provide all they need – in turn, this might avoid those over-sized rucksacks coming in to school. Toys of any kind should also stay at home, except for club-related items. Fidget toys should only be brought in to school with the agreement of our SENDCo.
8. There are currently no plans to change the school's homework policy as we believe that the continued focus on foundation skills of reading, spelling and times-tables is the best way to support long term learning. When your child brings their Reading Diary and Homework Log home, please review it with them.
9. In Key Stage 2, school ends at 3.30pm. Children will be brought on to the Church playground (to the left of the school) by their class teacher. Please give a wave and make eye contact with the teacher so they can safely release your child to you. If the normal routine needs to be changed, please let the school office know at the earliest opportunity.
10. School Uniform. The Key Stage 2 school uniform reflects the Key Stage 1 school uniform in most aspects. The only difference being that rather than polo shirts, children have the option of wearing a white collared shirt with school tie, which is available from the school office. Please remember, that there is always a good stock of pre-loved uniform available throughout the year at key events.

Please be aware that I will soon be sending out the annual parent survey which includes questions on some of the points in this transition letter, including the school uniform. Should any changes arise from the survey, these will be clearly communicated with parents and appropriate time given for any changes to occur.

Should you have any questions about the forthcoming transition to Year 3, or any aspect of school life, please call the office to arrange a meeting or send me an email.

Kind regards



Mr Geraghty
Headteacher