

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in the Lower Juniors. We are looking forward to another busy and action packed year.

As always, children are at the heart of everything we do. Your child's welfare and learning are extremely important to us. If there is anything that you think may be affecting this as the year progresses, then please speak to your child's class teacher. Given the challenging curriculum – particularly in reading, writing and mathematics – the positive involvement of parents/carers in education is vital in order you give your child the best possible start in life.

Reading

We ask that you continue to hear your child read at home on a regular basis, 3 times per week is the expectation. When children achieve this, they will receive a dojo which counts towards their house points and gold awards. Children are not expected to read at length; ten minutes per night is more beneficial than a half an hour block. The more regularly your child reads, the better, and dojos will be awarded for more frequent reading too.

Spelling, Rapid Recall and Times Tables

Attached to this letter is a list of the words that the children are expected to learn by the end of Y3/4. Spellings will be sent home weekly to learn and will be tested in class. Again a little practice each day is better than trying to 'cram' on the day of the test. We will also be teaching strategies of how to remember spellings in short sessions several times a week.

By the end of Y3/4, children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12. Following an assessment last week, the children have been told which times table to start on. This may differ from the one they were on at the end of the Summer Term. Times tables will be tested every week. This year we are also introducing Times Tables Rock Stars which is an online times table app. The children will be shown how to log on in school and will be given opportunity to use this app at least once in the week. Log in details and information about the app will be sent home separately and children can use the app as often as they wish at home.

As well as times tables, it is important that children know other important recall facts such number bonds. Each week, the children will be tested on these facts.

Home work

Topic related homework will continue this year in the blue books. Your child should have received their challenge books today.

P.E. Kit

Please can children bring their P.E. kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday. Indoor P.E. kit should include dark, plain shorts and a white T shirt, whilst outdoor kit should include, in addition, jogging/tracksuit bottoms, a warmer top and trainers. All children will be doing outdoor PE on a Thursday afternoon in sessions run by Sporting Influence.

Swimming

This year classes will attend the Hydro as follows:

Hazel Class – Autumn Term

Sycamore Class – Spring Term

Silver Birch Class – Summer Term

Meet the Teacher

We will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' event between 3:15 and 4:15 on **Tuesday 25th September**. This is an excellent opportunity to look at your child's learning environment and address any early questions/issues/queries you may have at this stage. It is an informal event so no need to make an appointment. Please come along to Silver Birch Class at 3:15pm. You are very welcome! If you have any concerns in the meantime, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher.

Yours Faithfully,

The Lower Junior Team