

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in the Lower Juniors. We have been extremely impressed with how well the children have settled into their new class and routines and it has been wonderful to see our classrooms full of smiling faces!

It is very important that we have good communication between school and home, so that the needs of your child are best met. If there is anything that you think may be affecting your child, then please contact school using the email [biltongrange@ycatschools.co.uk](mailto:biltongrange@ycatschools.co.uk) or phone the office on 01423 502375. Your child's teacher will respond as soon as they are available. The positive involvement of parents/carers in education is vital in order to give your child the best possible support throughout their time in school. You are the ones who know your child best and can help us bring out the best in them. With this in mind, we will be holding a "Meet the Teacher" session straight after school Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 3:20pm to give you the chance to pop in and meet us and see your child's new classroom.

### Rewards

For positive behaviours and learning, your child will be rewarded with "dojos". This is an online reward system and children can see their progress throughout the day. At the end of a week, points will be collected and added to a class sheet. Once your child has collected 25 points they will be awarded a Gold Award Certificate on a Friday. Should they receive 5 Gold Awards in the year they will receive a Headteacher's Award from Mrs James and a badge to wear on their uniform. Points collected each week will be added to a class House Point Chart and the house with the most points across the school will be announced every Friday.

### Reading





We ask that you continue to hear your child read at home on a regular basis, 4 times per week is the expectation for all children. This only need be for 10 minutes per time. It is better to practise more regularly for a short time than to read for longer and make reading feel like a chore. Children who read 4 times per week will receive additional Dojo Points to build towards their Gold Award.

The demands of the junior curriculum mean that your child may be heard read by a teacher in school less frequently than in KS1. However, children will be heard read by the class teacher in school at least every fortnight, although some children will be heard more frequently. They may also be heard by other adults in school in addition to this. We place great importance on reading and the children will have the opportunity to hear a story and read independently each day to encourage their reading for pleasure. We have a large choice of books in the classes to cater for the interests of all the children. They will be encouraged to pick a book that they enjoy and spend some time reading and talking about the books that they have read with their friends and classmates.

### Spelling and Times Tables

Spelling will be a real focus this year. Children will have a spelling lesson as part of the English lesson each day. They will learn rules and strategies to help them to spell unfamiliar words. Your child will be sent home a list of words to learn each week and these will be tested every Friday. We would appreciate your support in helping your child learn these spellings each week. Again, a little practise each day is better than trying to "cram" on the day of the test.

By the end of Y3/4, children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12. All children will spend 2 weeks in school practising the facts of one particular times table. They will be expected to spend additional time learning these facts at home. After 2 weeks, the class will move on to another times table allowing children to have exposure to all times tables at least twice throughout the year. These times tables will be tested each Friday, along with the spellings. We will continue to use Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS),





an online programme to support children with learning their tables. This will provide individualised learning and will focus on children recalling the facts at speed. The programme will assess the children's prior knowledge and then begin a training programme to include multiplication and division facts. The programme will focus on just a few facts at a time, to encourage speed and instant recall. These may be from a times table other than the one being focused on in class. Each class will have 2 time tabled slots to use TTRS in school, but children will benefit from any additional practise at home, as this will help them to move through the training quicker. Children in Year 4 will take part in the MTC (Multiplication Times Tables Check) in June which is an online test very similar to the Sound Check game on TTRS. They will have lots of opportunity to work on this in school, but additional time at home would be appreciated. Through the use of TTRS, the children have the chance to earn certificates and medals when they achieve particular standards.

### Home work

In addition to weekly times tables and spellings, your child will bring home a homework task to complete each week. This will alternate between a maths task and an English task. This will be linked to the learning that has taken place in school. This will be sent home on a Friday and should be completed and returned by the following Friday when it will be marked and new homework set. We recommend completing this earlier in the week so that if your child has difficulties with the task, they can discuss it with their class teacher before it is due to be handed in. Your child should not be spending more than about 20 mins completing these tasks. If they are taking significantly longer than this, or your child seems to be really struggling, please speak to your child's teacher.

### P.E. Kit

In Year 3/4 , we ask that children come to school dressed in their PE kit on the day they will be doing PE.

**Sycamore class** will do PE on **WEDNESDAYS** and **Hazel and Silver Birch** will do PE on **TUESDAYS**.





PE kit is part of the school uniform and MUST follow the PE uniform requirements. Children with hair at chin length

or longer must have their hair tied back and all earrings and watches will need to be removed by the child in preparation

for the lesson. Staff will not be able to help children to remove or replace earrings, so unless your child is

confident with this, they should not wear them on PE Days (this includes swimming).

### Swimming

Each class will be receiving two terms of swimming lessons. This will start with Hazel and Sycamore in the autumn. You have already received separate letters regarding swimming and a consent from which should by now have been returned to school.

### Packed Lunches and Snacks

Packed lunch boxes should be placed on the appropriate shelf on the trolleys under the shelter near the canteen before the start of school. In KS2 fruit snacks are not provided. If you wish to provide your child with a healthy snack, this should be fruit or vegetables in a named container which will be kept in the classroom until break. This should be separate from their packed lunch as they will not be able to access this at break time. Water bottles should also be provided, separate from the packed lunch, and should be brought into the classroom. In order to promote healthy habits, please only fill bottles with water. This also prevents mess if bottles leak or are tipped over.

### School Trips

We are in the process of finalising the details of a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre and The Dig in York as part of our History topic later this term. As soon as we have all the details, you will receive a letter.



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Headteacher: Mrs. S. James



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Year 4 parents will also be receiving a letter shortly regarding our residential visit to Nell Bank, Ilkley, in the Spring Term.

As always, your support is really appreciated. I know that this is a lot to take in, so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either your child's class teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Baldini

Lower Junior Leader

