

# New to KS2

Monday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

# What to expect - Independence

- in KS2, children are expected to be more independent when working in groups. This involves a whole raft of new skills, such as listening to each other, explaining ideas clearly, taking turns, helping others, allowing everyone to contribute, and pulling the group's ideas together into the end product. There's a lot less hand-holding in KS2, with children being expected to work independently and try to solve problems themselves rather than needing the teacher to point them in the right direction.
- How you can help: There are lots of ways to build your child's independence at home, for example by giving them some household responsibilities. If they're stuck on a homework task, don't step in with the solution; instead, encourage them to work it out themselves by asking questions such as, 'Where do you think you could look for help with this?' or, 'Can you come up with three possible solutions, then decide which one would be best
- How you can help: Look for opportunities to practise group work at home, such as baking a cake together, with one person reading the recipe and the other weighing out the ingredients, or collaborating with siblings or friends on making a LEGO model.

# What to expect - Organisation

- Children in KS2 are expected to take more responsibility for organising themselves, for example by remembering to bring their reading books and PE kit to school on the relevant days. It's also common for teachers to expect children to pass on messages from school themselves, rather than sending letters home.
- How you can help: Get your child into the habit of unpacking and repacking their school bag themselves the evening before. Prompt them to pass on messages by asking them regularly if there's anything you need to know.

# What to expect - concentration

- Being able to concentrate for longer periods goes hand-in-hand with the ability to work independently. In KS2, children need to get used to staying on task for increasing lengths of time, maintaining their focus and avoiding distracting other kids.
- How you can help: A good night's sleep and a decent breakfast before school are vital to kids' concentration, and they need to be well hydrated, too, so provide a water bottle for them to keep on their desk (with the teacher's permission).
- You can also improve their concentration skills by playing family games that involve focusing on the task in hand, such as Scrabble, Bananagrams and chess.

# What to expect – extended work

- Children are expected to be able to write at greater length and to develop their writing by using more sophisticated sentence structures and a range of grammar. They are expected to edit their work with a purple polishing pen.
- How you can help: Encourage your child's communication skills by making plenty of time to talk as a family, such as over the dinner table. Give them lots of experiences to inform their writing, such as visiting farms, beaches, the countryside and museums: it's easiest to write about what we know. Keeping a diary is another great way to practise writing.

# What to expect - reading

- At some point in KS2 children usually become 'free readers', having finished the school reading scheme. They'll be expected to choose their own books, either from the school library or the class bookshelf; they may also be allowed to choose a reading book from home. They may read independently at home but we would still expect a conversation to be had about what they have read and this to be noted in their Reading Diaries.
- How you can help: Taking your child to your local public library is a good way to get them used to picking books that tap into their interests. They can then use this skill to choose books at school.

# What to expect - handwriting

- In KS2, children graduate from writing in pencil to using a pen. Children have to earn a 'pen licence' by demonstrating that their handwriting is good enough. After this, there is the 'scribe award' where they earn a fountain pen.
- How you can help: Practice makes perfect, so spending some time helping your child with handwriting exercises will help them make the transition from pencil to pen. It's also a good idea to ask the teacher what sort of pen they'll be using in school, so you can provide the same type for writing at home.

# What to expect - swimming

- Swimming – currently Year 3 and 4 will be going swimming in Spring 2 with Mr Davies. They will be expected to get changed by themselves (but will be supervised!) but are not expected to know how to swim
- How you can help: Practise getting changed and putting school clothes back into their swimming bag and tidying their swimming things away sensibly (i.e. rolled up in a towel). You may want to take them to the Waterlooville Horizons Pool so they have seen where they will be swimming. You may want to get them used to water if they are non-swimmers – are they happy getting their face wet, taking their feet off the bottom etc. For children with long hair, get them to practise putting it back into a ponytail or similar. Practise drying themselves – including hair. Practise putting on a swim hat – although we will help with this, it is quicker if there are some that can do so themselves!

# Trips

- Residential in Years 5 & 6
- Residential in Year 3 & 4?
- Why are they important – what are the benefits?
- Good prep for secondary 'away day' bonding exercises

# Typical Day

- The typical day is much like in Year 1 and 2.
- Register, Assembly, Maths and English in the morning
- Guided Reading – either morning or afternoon
- Topic, PE, Library, Music in the afternoon
- Each class in KS2 still has role play provision and there will be allocated times. Drama is incorporated into the English curriculum.
- MFL

# Assesement

- Assessment will be against ARE for Year 3. For those children who did not reach ARE in Year 2 – they will be exposed to the ARE for Year 3 and will have targeted work to fill any gaps from KS1.
- Children are assessed formatively and summatively in reading, writing, maths and science

# Questions

