



St George's School, Bourton

A Church of England School

*work together, play together,
learn together...shine!*

Church Track
Bourton
Gillingham
Dorset
SP8 5BN

Phone 01747 840409

Fax 01747 841019

Headteacher: Mr Michael Salisbury

E-mail: office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk

12th September 2017

Dear Parents,

The children have made a super start to school and it has been a real pleasure to have them in class. They are already settling well into their new routines and we have been impressed with how independent they are already becoming, especially when coming into the classroom at the beginning of the school day. Over the next few weeks we will be encouraging the children to become familiar with their new environment and the activities they can access in our classroom as well as getting to know their new classmates.

Reading and phonics

On Friday the children brought home a library book. This is one that they have chosen themselves for you to read to them at home. This will be changed once a week. There is also a Reading Record Book in their book-bag to record any reading the children do at home or in school. Individual reading books for the children have started coming home already. These are wordless books to begin with to encourage story-telling and discussions. When the children are settled and ready for worded books, these will start coming home too. We would like to explain in more detail about the teaching of phonics and reading in Rainbow Base and hope that you would be able to attend an evening presentation on **Monday 25th September at 7.30pm** (adults only please). This will give you a greater insight into our phonics teaching programme and how we can work together to help your child learn to read. It will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions. It is important that parents try to attend, but is also an invitation for anyone else who will be involved in reading at home like grandparents or carers. Please fill in the slip below to let us know numbers and return it to Mrs Hudson in the office.

Wow Slips

This week we will be sending home Wow slips in your child's book bag. These are for you to fill in at home when your child achieves something special that we can celebrate in class. This could be something like learning to ride a bike, going on a sleep-over for the first time or getting dressed for school on their own. The children love to share this news and it's a great opportunity for them to tell the whole class what they have done at home. We can even include this as evidence of your child's development in their learning journals.

Interest Time

If your child has something extra special that they would like to show to the rest of the class, they are able to bring these in to school on Mondays or Thursdays. We would like to emphasise that there is no expectation to bring anything in and would ask that children only bring in things that relate to their learning or very special events that have happened at home. For example:

- A photograph of a cousin being christened.
- An abandoned nest found in the garden.
- A certificate from swimming.

Wellies

We like to take the children outside when learning opportunities present themselves. The children will need a pair of wellies (or old trainers) to hang on their peg so they can be accessed at any time.

P.E. Kit

The children will be doing PE on Tuesday afternoons from next week. We would ask that all pupils have their full PE kit in school on this day e.g. shorts, t-shirt, daps. However, we do encourage the children to leave their kit on their peg for the week, as sometimes they are needed for other activities. Please ensure that all P.E. kit, school uniform and shoes are clearly named as everyone's look so similar.

If your child has pierced ears please be aware that wearing studs for PE is not permissible due to Health and Safety restrictions. We suggest that studs are removed at home before the start of the school day or covered with tape. We will send the PE kits home at the end of every half term for them to be washed and returned for the start of the next term.

Snacks and drinks

We actively encourage the children to take frequent drinks of water throughout the school day to keep their fluid levels up. A **named** sports type water bottle can be brought into class daily but should only contain water please - not any juice or fizzy drinks. The children are given a daily fruit or vegetable snack each morning. Please let us know if there are any foods your child must avoid. If you send in alternative fruit for your child, please ensure that it is named. Please note, fruit alternatives such as Fruit Winders or Bears are not allowed.

Lunches

Yesterday, the children had their lunch in the hall. Their buddies sat next to them to support them and make sure they knew the routines. This will continue until the children are settled. This year we are introducing a weekly lunch record which will indicate how much lunch your child has eaten on each day. These will be sent home every Friday.

If you have any more questions or concerns, do not hesitate to come in or contact us when convenient. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Toy and Miss Anna Maskell

Dear Mrs Toy and Miss Maskell,

I am/We are/not able/able to attend the Reading and Phonics evening on Monday 25th

September at 7.30pm. There will be _____adults attending.

Signed: _____

Parent of: _____