

Dear parents and carers,

A warm welcome to Class 3! I hope you have had a wonderful summer despite the best efforts of the rain to dampen our spirits! As the sun typically finally makes an appearance, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children and working together so that we have a very exciting and productive term.

Despite suffering from the end of summer holiday blues, I am excited to welcome the children back to school, hearing about their summers and helping them settle into Key Stage 2. Having spent some time with them last year, and listened to Mrs Brookes' and Mr Brown's glowing reports, I know that they are a lovely, hard working Class and I am excited to see what they produce in Year 3.

As we launch into what promises to be a busy and exciting term, I wanted to send some reminders and let you know a bit about what we will be doing in school.

First, a small plea: Please make sure everything is named! This includes water bottles, chrome books and uniform. Everything always finds its way back to the classroom if it has a clear label and it does cut down my daily effort to reunite jumpers with their owners! We would also ask that you please provide your child with a clear wallet (or purchase an optional school book bag) to keep their reading book in good condition. The school has invested substantially in our school library and we want to encourage children to look after the books; they are easily damaged when squashed into bookbags or placed next to a leaky water bottle or that mouldy banana that lurks somewhere at the bottom of a rucksack!

St Helen's uniform expectations are fully outlined in the policy on our website, but a brief reminder that shoes or trainers must be completely black, with no logos. PE Kit must also be plain with no logos. If earrings are worn to school, they must be plain studs and children must be able to remove them themselves, for PE. Staff are not allowed to assist with this.

In terms of PE, the children will continue to take part in 30 minutes of daily physical activity (DPA) each morning, so ideally, trainer type shoes are preferable (however these do need to be quite waterproof to cope with our changeable weather). If you would prefer your child to change their shoes for DPA, please send them with a pair (named) in their bag. Our PE day is on a Monday this half term - please send children into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Come rain or shine this Autumn, we will be making the most of the wonderful grounds we have at St Helen's so children need to bring a pair of (named) wellies to keep in school. This way, we can take advantage of any outdoor learning opportunities at any time.

Please ensure your child brings in a named water bottle each day and either a fruit or vegetable snack for mid-morning. If your child has packed lunch, we would encourage a healthy and balanced selection to keep them energised throughout the afternoon.

As part of our Curriculum 360, each of the classes at St Helen's will have a central idea to explore each half term. Our big question that we will be discussing and exploring in Year 3 is '*What can we learn from the actions of individuals?*' This is going to give us an opportunity to learn about some amazing individuals from Ancient Egypt. Unfortunately, the budget doesn't run to a trip down the Nile or to visit the Pyramids, but I'll do my best to bring a bit of Egypt to the classroom! You can read more about what we will be covering on the curriculum overview that is on the website.

I will endeavour to keep you updated with all our learning in Class 3 through Seesaw. It's a great place to showcase and share the children's work, progress and achievements in school. It would be amazing if you could like and comment on your child's work as often as you can - they absolutely love to have an audience and thrive from the recognition that they get. If you can't use it or have any questions about Seesaw - please just ask, I'm happy to help. Each week I'll try and post an update with useful information and dates for your diary too.

Home learning to support and enhance classwork will be sent out via Seesaw each Friday. I do not expect children to spend hours doing homework; short tasks should reinforce and extend their learning and give them a chance to share with you what they've been doing at school. I will set weekly spellings and times tables (with a test each Friday) and expect the children to read at home at least five times each week, adding a short comment to Seesaw each time. Reading is always the most valuable thing you can do with your child - it's integral to a child's academic achievement, helping with their comprehension and understanding, vocabulary, background knowledge and writing flair. We want children to enjoy reading and the practice at home really makes a difference. If you are struggling to motivate them, anything you can get them to read is fine - comics, recipes, books on a kindle, the back of a cereal packet... you get the idea!

I hope that your child doesn't have any big worries about starting the new term. I am thoroughly looking forward to being part of Class 3 and it is my aim that your son or daughter feels the same way. If, for whatever reason, they are not feeling happy about an issue at school, please send me a message on Seesaw or arrange a time to come and see me. My door is always open and I would be more than happy to listen to any concerns and endeavour to find a solution. However, please encourage your child to come and talk to me if they are worried about anything - I'm not as scary as I look and I'm always happy to listen!

Finally, if there is anything I haven't covered in this small essay (or if what I have said doesn't make sense!) - please send me a message on Seesaw and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Mr Kent

Dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 12th September - Welcome Back BBQ after school

Wednesday 27th September - Tom Palmer author visit

Tuesday 31st October - school photos