

Baden-Powell & St Peter's CE Junior School



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Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Rusling
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Amanda Knowles

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are absolutely delighted to welcome the children back to school. Our Year 3 children have already impressed us with how well they are settling in and our returning children have made a superb start to the term. Thank you for preparing them so well for the term ahead; the children look smart and are ready to embrace the year ahead.

To all families new to our school community, we would like to extend a very warm welcome. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you and supporting your child throughout their journey with us.

This letter contains a great deal of important information, so you may wish to read it more than once to ensure everything is clear. Each year group will also be sending out its own information letter next week, which will include key details and expectations for the year ahead. In the meantime, please take note of the important updates and upcoming events outlined below.

Drop Off and Collection Times

If you bring your child to school, you are very welcome to accompany them onto the school playground, especially parents of our new Year 3 children and pupils new to the school (specific arrangements will have been outlined in the Year 3 welcome letter). To help our younger pupils settle confidently into their new routines, we encourage Year 3 parents and carers to drop off and collect their children from the classroom doors during the first half term. This allows children to build relationships with staff and become familiar with their new environment.

As the children grow in confidence and independence, most families choose to drop off and collect at one of the main school gates. This helps to reduce the number of adults on site and supports the smooth flow of pupils at the beginning and end of the day. However, we completely understand that every child settles at their own pace and we fully respect your decision to accompany your child onto the school site for as long as you feel it is necessary. Our priority is ensuring that every child feels safe, happy and confident in school.

Within Arbor, parents and carers are asked to indicate whether their child may be dismissed from the classroom without being handed over to an adult. This permission is required whether your child will be collected from one of the school gates or will walk home independently. If you haven't already done so, please ensure that this has been completed so the dismissal arrangements for your child are clear.



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3:23

There will always be members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) present at the main entrances and on the playground during drop-off and collection times each day. If there is ever an issue with collection arrangements at the end of the day, children are reminded to return to the school reception area where a member of staff will be able to support them. We will contact parents separately about collection arrangements for pupils attending after school clubs.

We fully appreciate that the start times across our partner schools are very close together. Please be reassured that no child will be penalised for arriving a few minutes after the start of day bell if this is due to parents dropping off younger siblings at Lilliput Infant School or Courthill Infant School. This is a common challenge at the beginning of the academic year, particularly given the traffic congestion between schools at this busy time of day. In most cases, these issues settle as routines become established.

The school day officially begins at 8.45am and children may enter the building between 8.30- 8.45am. This provides them with time to organise their belongings, settle into the classrooms and connect with their teacher before lessons begin. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for children who are left on site before 8.30am, as staff are not available to supervise them. For safety reasons, we strongly discourage children from arriving earlier than this time. We also ask that children do not use the playground equipment before or after school.

Meet the Teacher

Our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions will take place on Monday 14 September from 3.30-4.30pm. During this time, parents and carers are invited to drop in, visit their child's new classroom and meet their class teacher. This is intended as an informal opportunity to put names to faces and to see where your child will be learning. It is not designed for detailed discussions about individual children or confidential matters. Attendance is entirely optional and there will be a further opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher during our parent consultation meetings, which will take place just before the October half-term break.

To help avoid congestion, we ask that you collect your child as usual at the end of the school day. Your child will then guide you to their classroom using the external routes rather than entering through the main building. Class teachers will be waiting to welcome families at their classroom doors and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to help direct parents and carers to the correct locations.

Please note the following exceptions for classroom access:

Class 3HP – Mrs Percy: enter via the Year 3 practical area near the bike/scooter racks;

Class 3MH – Mrs Hay: enter via the Year 3 entrance off the playground;

Class 6MA – Miss Ackrell: enter through the through the Y6 entrance off the main playground.

If you have a matter you would like to discuss privately or more urgently with your child's teacher, please contact them through the usual communication channels so that a suitable time can be arranged.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Your child's wellbeing and mental health are of the utmost importance to us. The more informed we are, the better we can support them through any challenges they may face, whether short-term or ongoing. With this in mind, we invite you to share a brief, bullet-pointed list of up to three key pieces

of information that you feel would be helpful for your child's class teacher to know in relation to their wellbeing or emotional needs. This could include anything that may help us better understand, support and care for your child during the school day.

You can hand this information in at the school office, clearly marked for the attention of your child's class teacher, or your child can pass it directly to their teacher.

Please do not feel obliged to submit anything if there is nothing you wish to share at this time; however, we encourage you to contact us in the future should any circumstances arise that you feel may affect your child's wellbeing, happiness, or ability to learn.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's mental health or wellbeing, please contact their class teacher in the first instance. We also encourage you to visit the [Wellbeing section](#) of our school website, which contains a wealth of information, advice, and links to a range of useful organisations and support services.

Snacks at Break

At BPSP, we actively promote healthy habits, therefore we strongly encourage children to bring in a healthy snack for breaktime, such as a piece of fruit. We kindly request that items like crisps and chocolate and other confectionery are **not** consumed during this time. Your support in helping us reinforce these healthy choices is greatly appreciated.

Birthday Sweets, etc.

To support our healthy school approach and to promote inclusivity, we kindly ask that families do **not** send in edible birthday treats for the class. This helps us encourage healthier choices, supports children with dietary requirements and reduces any pressure on families to provide food items for celebrations. We will continue to celebrate children's birthdays in school in fun and meaningful ways that everyone can enjoy.

Uniform Reminder

All children should be wearing their winter uniform during the Autumn term. Please refer to the uniform expectations clearly outlined on our school website, which we ask you to adhere to.

We'd like to draw your attention to three key uniform requirements, all outlined in our [Uniform Guidelines](#):

- **Smart black shoes** must be worn - **black trainers are not permitted.**
- **School fleeces** are an additional layer for colder weather and are also used during PE lessons. **They are not a substitute for school jumpers**, so children will be asked to remove them when inside the building.
- **Smart watches** are not allowed in school. Please refer to the guidelines for further details.

Additionally, if your child is attending an extra-curricular club but does not have a PE lesson on the same day, they should come to school in their school uniform and change into their PE kit at the end of the day.

Mobile Phones

We discourage children bringing mobile phones into school as we believe they are generally unnecessary at primary age. If parents and carers feel this is necessary, we strongly discourage the use of smartphones, due to the distractions and online risks associated with them. It is worth noting that smartphones are currently prohibited in our local secondary schools and it is likely that this will

be the case for all schools in the very near future. If your child brings a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off before entering the premises and handed directly to their class teacher upon arrival. Phones will be stored securely during the school day and returned to children at the end of the day; however, the children are not permitted to switch them on until they have left the school grounds. We also kindly ask that parents refrain from using mobile phones whilst on the school premises to help maintain a safe and focused environment for all.

Scooters and Bikes

Children and parents/carers must **walk with their scooters or bikes along the school path** upon entering or exiting the school site having dismounted at the school gate. We encourage children to lock these items to the bike racks if possible.

Support/Interventions

As was the case last academic year, some children will receive targeted intervention support in either Maths, Reading or Writing from time to time. At regular intervals throughout the year, we assess all pupils to determine whether additional support or reinforcement in these subjects is needed. If your child is selected to take part in an intervention programme, their class teacher will inform you, either during a parent consultation session or at another appropriate time once the intervention begins. Further details about our assessment process will be shared with you in due course.

BPSP's Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy

Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with BPSP's Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy and our Behaviour Blueprint, both of which are available on the [school website](#):

This week we will be revisiting our school rules and behaviour expectations with the children to ensure they fully understand the 'BPSP Way' including our system of rewards and sanctions. Our policy is closely aligned with the school's vision and values and it plays a vital role in maintaining a positive and well-structured learning environment, including developing positive relationships with each other based on mutual respect.

Homework

Homework is an important part of our planned curriculum and plays a key role in reinforcing learning at home. We greatly value your support in helping children develop good study habits. We expect all homework to be completed by the deadlines set; however, we understand that some children may face difficulties completing tasks at home due to extenuating circumstances. To support them, we offer lunchtime homework sessions in school where children can complete their work with guidance from a member of staff. The welcome letters for each year group will include details of the designated homework club days.

For more detailed information about homework expectations for each year group, please refer to the [school website](#).

Personalised Learning Plans for Children with SEND

Individual Learning Plan (previously PLP) meetings will be after school on Monday 21 September for those children that are on the SEND register. More details to follow shortly.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Please also take time to read the attached Parent-Teacher Communication Protocols. Over the past couple of years, we have unfortunately received a small number of unpleasant and inappropriate

communications from a minority of parents. We want to be clear that aggressive emails or phone calls will not be tolerated, and it is my responsibility to ensure that all staff are protected from such behaviour. We are committed to maintaining respectful, constructive communication between home and school and we greatly appreciate your support in upholding this standard.

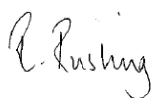
Car Park

Please note that the school car park is reserved for staff only unless you have been issued with a BPSP parking permit (please refer to separate letter). We always encourage families to walk to school where possible; however, if you do need to drive, we kindly ask that you park considerately in the surrounding area, showing respect for our residents.

Do look out for our '**Weekly Reminders**' email which is issued every Friday. It contains everything you need to know for the week ahead, including year group specific updates. In addition, our half-termly edition of '**Headlines**' will keep you informed about all things BPSP!

We look forward to engaging positively with our BPSP families over the coming year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Rusling'.

Rachel Rusling
Headteacher