



**Working and learning
together for success**

2nd September 2015

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone here at Sarisbury Junior, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all at the start of this new school year and hope you have had a relaxing and restful summer break. The staff and I look forward to working with you, as we build on our achievements from last year, implement the new National Curriculum and make this another very successful year for all at SJS. We are certainly looking forward to the opportunities and challenges presented by the year ahead.

We welcome the children and parents of our new Year 3 as they begin their time at Sarisbury and also extend a warm welcome to the new members of staff who have joined the school this September; Mrs Hartley, Miss Dane and Mrs Townson.

The school got off to a very smooth start today and already the children are working hard and becoming familiar with the routines of life at Sarisbury. May I also express my thanks to parents for your support with our school uniform policy; the children looked very smart as we began the new term and we are committed to maintaining these high standards throughout the year. In an effort to reduce lost property, please would you **label all items of uniform** etc. with your child's name.

Good quality name labels are available from a company called **Stikins** who specialise in labels that need no sewing or ironing; I believe these are used by a number of parents already and come highly recommended. Please order these online at www.stikins.co.uk quoting the school number **17499**.

Open Days & Parents' Evenings

During the week beginning 21st September, we will be holding our series of open days. These will give parents the opportunity to 'pop in' during the day and experience the ethos at Sarisbury and see first hand the school at work. Parents are welcome to join us between 9:30am and 10:30am, 11:00am and 12:00 and between 1:30pm and 2:30pm for the afternoon session. The dates for each year group's open day and appointment slip will follow nearer the time; please note that due to space in classrooms, there will be a limited number of places per session. Our Open Days are always popular and well attended and we look forward to seeing you again this term.

Autumn Term parents' evenings will be held in the second half of the term in order to share more detailed information about children's progress and learning goals. However, to keep you updated on your child's progress, this half term we will hold an open evenings in classrooms on Wednesday 7th October, for our Lower School and Thursday 8th October for Upper School pupils between 4:00pm and 5:30pm. These will provide an opportunity to look at your child's work and chat informally with their class teacher about how they have settled.

Our Autumn Term parents' evenings will be held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November and you will receive further details and appointment slips nearer the time.

Year 3 Parents – Welcome to our new Year 3; we are holding an information evening for all Year 3 parents on Thursday 11th September at 6:30pm. The purpose of the evening is to give a more detailed breakdown of routines and expectations at Sarisbury, once the children have settled into life in Year 3. It will also give us the opportunity to discuss the transfer arrangements that have taken place and seek your feedback on the induction process. A useful booklet that contains information about key events during the year, as well as a few reminders about routines and procedures at Sarisbury, will be distributed at the Information Evening; we hope you find this helpful.

Year 6 Parents – We are holding an information evening for all Year 6 parents on Tuesday 8th September at 6:30pm. The purpose of the evening is to give a more detailed breakdown of curriculum changes and new assessment arrangements being introduced to Year 6 this year. The information evening for the residential visit to Stone Farm will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 6:30pm when we will be outlining the trip and providing details of approximate costing. Mrs Allan, Headteacher at Brookfield School, will also attend this meeting to answer any questions parents may have regarding the application to Brookfield this term.

Year 5 Parents – The information evening for the residential visit to the East Dean Centre on the Isle of Wight will be held on Thursday 15th October at 6:30pm when we will be outlining the programme for this new venue and providing details of approximate costing. Mrs Allan, Headteacher at Brookfield School, will also attend this meeting to answer any questions parents may have regarding the future application process to Brookfield School.

Parent Helpers

We continue to enjoy tremendous support from parents at Sarisbury and are always very happy to see parents helping in classrooms or on school trips etc. If you have any time to spare then please contact your child's teacher, or year team leader, who will be delighted to hear from you. We run a very successful guided reading programme at Sarisbury that requires regular support from parents. Full training is offered and further details will follow shortly about how you can volunteer for this, but we would welcome any interest from parents who would like to support reading in school.

Please remember that Year Leaders, Mrs Bleeck and I are always happy to see parents about any concerns or problems, usually at the beginning or end of each day. If unavailable, then an appointment can be made through the school office.

Our Parents and Friends Association are always looking for new volunteers. If you feel you are able to help with fund raising events this year, or want to find out more about the PFA, please come to the AGM on Wednesday 16th September at 6:30pm in the school hall.

Club Activities

We run a wide range of clubs at Sarisbury and are in the process of organising activities for the new school year. I will contact parents as soon as further details are available; children will be given information in assembly as well as via letters home. Details of club activities at SJS will also be posted on the school's website www.sjsonline.org.uk

Water Bottles & Healthy Snacks

Children will need to bring water bottles into school each day. Bottled water is available from the school office at break times at a cost of 25p but in addition, the school has a number of water fountains available on site. As part of our 'Enhanced Healthy Schools Standard', we have a policy of fresh fruit and vegetables only for snacks at breaktime. This initiative has proved beneficial, not only in terms of children's health, but equally in the significant improvement to the school's environment through the reduction in litter; your support with this policy is appreciated.

School Meals & Packed Lunches

Hampshire Caterers provide a good range and standard of school meal for the children and regularly review their lunchtime menu. At £2.00, it represents very good value for money and as part of our work as an 'Enhanced Healthy School', we are keen to increase the number of children having hot school meals. Sarisbury Junior offers a flexible school meal service whereby meals can be ordered and paid for daily. A copy of this term's menu is available from the school office if parents are interested. The school also operates an on-line pre-payment service for school activities and meals; details and the relevant link are available through our website. For ease of administration we would request that meals and school activities are **paid for in advance**. Parents should note that Hampshire Caterers have removed the 'snack' meal from their lunch menu and now only provide cooked meals; a meat and vegetarian option are available.

If your child brings a packed meal to school, please will you ensure that their name and class are marked clearly on their lunch box. In line with our Healthy School's Policy, we would also encourage parents to consider a healthy and balanced meal when providing a packed lunch for their child.

Attendance Changes for September 2015:

I am reminding parents of the booklet published by Hampshire County Council which was sent home prior to the summer break. This outlined the key changes regarding school absence and the issuing of penalty notices. From September, the school will administer, on behalf of Hampshire County Council, penalty notices for all holiday absences taken during term time which have not been approved as exceptional circumstances. The booklet is a helpful guide for parents as to the process should this action be necessary.

Children's Safety:

As you are aware, there is a great deal of congestion at the beginning and end of each school day and it is important for the children's safety that drivers do not obstruct the crossing point or bus lanes. May I also advise parents that there is a parking exclusion zone outside the school grounds which extends to the entrance to Coldeast; I understand from Fareham Borough Council that areas of Coldeast Close will also be marked with double yellow lines in the near future to restrict parking. I believe that the new pathway connecting the Sarisbury Schools is nearing completion and we would encourage as many parents as possible to use this.

Parents who wish their child to cycle to school will need to obtain a cycle permit from the school office in order to leave bicycles on the premises. I would also ask that parents are vigilant when accessing the cycle racks as this passes through the staff car park; we do ask that parents and children dismount at the entrance to the school. Children who hold the 'Bikeability Level 2' qualification are able to cycle to school unaccompanied by an adult. Bikeability training is available to all pupils in Years 5 and 6 as part of the school's curriculum; this runs in the spring term.

We are pleased to let parents know that the school we be installing two scooter parks early this term. We have a new scooter stand which the PFA have kindly donated and a scooter pod that has been provided by Hampshire travel. Together these scooter parks will be able to hold around 40 scooters. The scooter parks will be positioned close to the bike racks out of the sight of the road.

In addition to this we are hoping to offer Year 3 scooter safety training this term which is run by the Pedal Power team and is again funded by Hampshire travel.

Security Arrangements:

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that all visitors to the school should report to reception when visiting the school premises.

Home / School Partnership:

You child will shortly be bringing home a copy of our Home / School agreement. This is an important document that outlines the strength of partnership that exists at Sarisbury and how you, as parents, have a key and valuable role to play in the life of our school; we look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Stockton

Mr A. J. Stockton
Headteacher

For your information, a list of diary dates for this term is included below and is also available from the school office. These and a wide range of information about the school are included on our website which can be accessed via the following link www.sjsonline.org.uk

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September
Tuesday 8th September
Thursday 10th September
Wednesday 16th September
Monday 21st September
Tuesday 22nd September
Wednesday 23rd September
Thursday 24th September
Thursday 24th September
Friday 25th September
W/B 28th September

W/B 5th October
Tuesday 6th October
Wednesday 7th October
Thursday 8th October
Friday 9th October
W/B 12th October
Wednesday 14th October
Thursday 15th October
Tuesday 20th October
Thursday 22nd October

Monday 26th October

Monday 2nd November
Tuesday 3rd November
Wednesday 11th November
Thursday 12th November
Wednesday 18th November
Thursday 19th November

Tuesday 15th December
Wednesday 16th December
Thursday 17th December

Friday 18th December

In-Service Day Closure

Autumn Term 1 Begins

Year 6 Information Evening (6:30pm)
Year 3 Information Evening (6:30pm)
PFA AGM (6:30pm)
Year 4 Open day
Year 6 Open Day
Year 3 Open Day
Year 5 Open Day
Year 6 to Mayflower Theatre
Year 4 to Mayflower Theatre
Year 3 to visit Sarisbury Green

Year 3 to Eastleigh
Individual School Photographs
Y3 & Y4 Open Classrooms to see children's work (4pm to 5:30pm)
Y5 & Y6 Open Classrooms to see children's work (4pm to 5:30pm)
Harvest Festival
Year 3 Healthy Eating Project
Stone Farm Information Evening (6:30pm)
East Dean Residential (IoW) Information Evening (6:30pm)
Parent Forum Meeting – curriculum & assessment changes
Open Evening for Year 2 Parents

Half Term Holiday

In-Service Day Closure

Autumn Term 2 Begins

Remembrance Service @ 10:45am
Year 6 SATs Information Evening
Parents' Evening 4:00pm to 7:30pm
Parents' Evening 4:00pm to 7:30pm

Year 4 Nativity @ St Paul's

Year 4 Nativity @ St Paul's

Carol Services

End of Term

Other dates regarding school trips during the autumn term will follow once confirmed.