



**Working and learning
together for success**

6th September 2016

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 strive to 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 teaching staff who have joined the school this September; Mr Carr, Miss King and Miss Christy who will complete her teacher training with Mr Richards in Year 3.

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 Classroom & Parents' Evenings

Autumn Term parents' evenings will be held in the second half of the term on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th November in order to share more detailed information about children's progress and learning goals. You will receive further details on how to book appointments nearer the time.

However, to keep you updated on your child's progress, this half term we will hold an open evening in classrooms on Wednesday 12th October, for our Lower School and Thursday 13th 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.

Year 3 Parents – Welcome to our new Year 3; we are holding an information evening for all Year 3 parents on Tuesday 20th 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.

During the week beginning 26th September, we will be holding a series of guided learning walks for parents of children in Year 3 who are interested in learning more about Junior School life. These will give parents the opportunity to visit during a typical school day, experience the ethos at Sarisbury and see first-hand the school at work. Mrs Bleack and I will lead these tours of the school and we will write to confirm further details nearer the time. Please note that due to space in classrooms, there will be a limited number of places per session but we will aim to offer a selection of times to enable as many parents to join us as possible.

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 29th September 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.

Year 6 Parents – We are holding an information evening for all Year 6 parents on Thursday 15th September at 6:30pm. The purpose of the evening is to give a more detailed breakdown of curriculum changes and new assessment arrangements specific to Year 6 this year. The information evening for the residential visit to Stone Farm will be held on Wednesday 28th September 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 process to Brookfield this term.

Parent Helpers

We are grateful for the tremendous support we receive from our parent community 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 group 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. Guided reading sessions take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning between 9:00am and 9:30am.

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 21st 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 20p 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. **Due to severe food allergies, please refrain from send snacks that contain nuts.**

School Meals & Packed Lunches

Hampshire Caterers provide a good range and standard of school meals for the children and regularly review their lunchtime menu. At £2.10, it represents very good value for money and as part of our work as an 'Enhanced Healthy School', we are keen to promote school meals through Hampshire Caterers for the children. 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. Please note that a credit balance is required before any meals can be ordered.

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. **Due to severe food allergies, please refrain from send snacks that contain nuts.**

Children's Safety:

As you are aware, there can be a great deal of congestion in Allotment Road at the beginning and end of each school day and we therefore encourage a number of different ways for children to travel to school in order to reduce vehicles accessing the school site. Mrs Bleeck has done an excellent job in promoting alternative travel arrangements and we are delighted that the school now holds the 'Silver National Travel Award'; your support in continuing to support this initiative is much appreciated. Since the removal of the school bus service to the Sarisbury Schools, we are working with the County Council to have the bus layby marked as a stop and drop zone; therefore we would appreciate it if parents refrain from parking in the layby unless using it for this purpose. Again your support with this is much appreciated.

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 site. 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 autumn and spring term.

We also have two scooter parks available for those children who wish to scoot to school. As part of the school's safer travel initiatives, 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.

Would parents also note that the pedestrian crossing due to be installed on Barnes Lane has been delayed until October half term. Mrs Osman will continue to provide the crossing patrol service during this period.

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 (Years 4, 5 and 6):

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

Initial Autumn Term Dates for your Diary:

Monday 5th September

Tuesday 6th September

Wednesday 14th September

(this may be delayed due to the leisure centre completion)

Thursday 15th September

Tuesday 20th September

Wednesday 21st September

Monday 26th September to

Thursday 29th September

Wednesday 28th September

Wednesday 28th September

Thursday 29th September

W/B 3rd October

Wednesday 5th October

W/B 10th October

Wednesday 12th October

Thursday 13th October

Friday 14th October

Tuesday 18th October

Thursday 20th October

Monday 24th October

Monday 31st October

Tuesday 1st November

Friday 11th November

Thursday 17th November

Wednesday 23rd November

Thursday 24th November

Tuesday 13th December

Wednesday 14th December

Thursday 15th December

Friday 16th December

In-Service Day Closure

Autumn Term 1 Begins

Year 5 Swimming (Class 5SC) – 12 weeks

Year 6 Information Evening (6:30pm)

Year 3 Information Evening (6:30pm)

PFA AGM (6:30pm)

Guided learning tours for Year 3 parents

Year 3 to visit Sarisbury Green

Stone Farm Information Evening (6:30pm)

East Dean Residential (IoW) Information Evening (6:30pm)

Year 5 Bikeability (cycle training)

Year 3 to Winchester (geography field trip)

Year 5 Bikeability (cycle training)

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

Individual School Photographs

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 7:00pm

Year 4 Nativity @ St Paul's 7:00pm

Carol Services (volunteers would be appreciated)

End of Term

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