

Simmondley Primary School

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Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year. The children have had a fantastic first week and are adjusting well to higher expectations, now that they are in the juniors. It was lovely to meet some of you at the 'meet the teacher' evening in July. If we haven't yet met, then please feel free to come and say hello. I am in the playground before and after school most days.

Moving into the Juniors

Now that your child is in the juniors, they will be expected to become more independent. This includes:

- Lining up and coming into school independently
- Handing in dinner money on Mondays
- Passing on notes/messages
- Bringing home letters
- Bringing home reading books every night
- Bringing reading books into the classroom every morning
- Changing reading books when necessary
- Bringing home, completing and returning homework
- Remembering outdoor PE kits or swimming kits on the right day

This seems like a long list, but we will get there! Many children are already doing these things. In the morning, children are expected to line up as soon as the whistle is blown. I would really appreciate it if you could leave the playground at this point, so that your child can develop their own sense of independence. At the end of the day, please ask your child whether they have remembered their reading book and spelling journal; if not, they should come back into school to get it.

Reading

This is something I am really passionate about – both teaching the skills of reading, but also cultivating a real love of reading for its own sake. We will be reading lots of different books in all subjects, as well as great stories for children to simply enjoy.

Your child will take part in a guided reading session each week. This is a focused session, with children of a similar ability, when we will focus on reading skills. Individual readers will be heard occasionally. I will however, check reading records on a regular basis to keep track of children's home reading. Children in Year 3 should be reading three times per week if they are at gold book band or above. If your child has not yet reached this level and is still practising de-coding (sounding out) then please try to hear them each night. These children will also be heard more often in school, as reading aloud is more important at this stage. Children can change books as often as they need to, provided that they have read and **thoroughly understood** the story (or information if non-fiction).



PE

Indoor PE kits are kept in a box in the cloakroom. These should be in school every day and will be sent home before the half term holiday. Our outdoor PE session will take place on **Wednesdays** this term. Children will need jogging bottoms, trainers, a t-shirt and jumper, as well as a waterproof jacket. We aim to go out in all weather, so please ensure that your child has suitable clothing. This kit should be brought in on Wednesday morning and taken home the same day. This helps to keep the cloakroom tidy. Can I please ask you to check that every item of clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name?

Homework

Maths homework will be given out on Friday and should be returned on Monday. The aim of this homework is to consolidate skills learnt in maths lessons and to give you the opportunity to see what your child has been learning. Children should be able to complete the work independently and should not spend more than 30 minutes on each piece. There is a comment sheet on the inside cover of the homework book and it is really helpful if you make a short comment to let me know how your child got on.

English homework will be given out on Mondays, to be returned on Wednesdays. This may be sentence work, practising new writing skills we have covered, or a talk based homework. This helps to improve vocabulary, which is crucial to attain higher levels in writing once the basics have been mastered.

Spelling

Spellings will be given out on Mondays and there will be a short test the following week. Your child will bring home a spelling journal each night, with their reading book. This includes a list of high frequency words, which your child should know. Children should complete a double page each week, where there is space to practise the words and a page for handwriting practice. This is helpful, as spelling and handwriting are very closely linked. **Children can choose any three words from their list for handwriting practice.** Some children are already using beautiful joined handwriting, but this is something we will be working on this term, so please don't worry if your child is still printing.

Topic

Our topic this term is history based, looking at the Romans in Britain. I am really looking forward to our trip to Chester; I know the children will have a fantastic day. You will receive a letter with more information soon.

I hope that your child will be very happy in Willow class. If you wish to speak to me for any reason, you can usually find me before or after school for a quick chat. If you aren't around at this time, you can send a note (reminding your child to hand it to me!) or telephone the office to arrange an appointment. I look forward to meeting you at parents' evenings later this term.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Adderley

