

Salhouse VC C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Julie Church

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and are refreshed and ready for the New Year. Bitterns class are lucky to be in a newly painted and furnished room. During the first few days, the children will have an opportunity to settle in to their new routines. Your child may feel a little unsure to begin with but they will soon become familiar with life in their new class. I hope the information below will answer some of the questions you might have.

Bookbags – Please make sure these come to school every day. Children will have a current reading book and a home school book in their bag. Bookbags are the main method for sending in letters and lunch money. The bags are checked daily and any letters that need to go home will be placed in them. When your child comes into the class in the morning, they will put their bookbag in either the Year 1 or Year 2 box as appropriate.

Home / school book – please use this as much as you wish! Use it to share queries, concerns and news. If your child has any worries, is feeling under the weather, has had an unsettled night etc, it is always useful to know so please mention it in the book. Likewise, we will pop notes in from time to time, so please check it daily. There will always be a member of staff on the gate in the morning and in the classroom at the end of the day if you would prefer to speak directly to someone.

Reading – We encourage the children to read every day at home. Depending on what they are reading, this may be the whole book or a few pages. Each time you read with your child, please record it in the book, writing the date, title of book and the pages that were read. Then, just initial it. Books will be changed once they have been read at home or at school. Please record any other books your child enjoys at home, it is always helpful to know.

I am keen to promote 'reading for pleasure' in our class. This will involve time spent in our library and storytelling time. If you would like to spend some time with us, in school, sharing stories with the children please let me know. Once we are settled, I will organise a timetable for this.

Home learning – The purpose of this is to support and consolidate work that the children are doing in class. Most weeks, I will add a game to your child's 'Activelearn' account for them to play at home, if they wish. I will be sending home a reminder of the website and password. Year 2 children will bring home some maths homework each week. I will also be sending home spelling games or sheets, from time to time, for all children. Finally, during each half term, I will set a 'project' linked to our topic. Please let me know if you **do not** wish to receive homework.

Lunches – Each morning, we read out the menu and the children tell me what they would like for lunch. Please make sure your child knows the choices and you have discussed what they will choose! If you prefer your child not to order a particular thing (e.g. a school packed lunch) please let me know. You may prefer to order lunch using the 'Pupil Asset' app.

Home time – as mentioned at the end of term, at the end of the day the gates will be opened and you will come round to the outside door of the Bitterns to collect your child. If you have more than one child at the school, please make sure that they know the order you will be collecting them in to avoid confusion!

And finally...

We are always on the lookout for high quality toys and games. Before you take your unwanted toys to the car boot, please check with us first – you may have just what we are looking for!

I hope this information is helpful and that your children will enjoy a fantastic year in the Bitterns.

Mrs Collins

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