



THE HOWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Welcome back September 2023

Dear parents and children,

We cannot wait to have you back in school on Monday. We hope you have had a great summer full of excitement and relaxation. School is looking beautiful and all ready for your return. Please find below some information that will help with your return to school.

Communication

Website



Each class will provide a weekly blog for you to see what has been going on in school each week. The website will also contain key information around spellings and other key information. All information can be found under the children section of the [website](#)

Dojo

We will continue to post on both the class and school pages of Dojo to inform you of upcoming events, changes in timetable or PE days and to share what the children have been learning in class.

In order to ensure important or emergency messages are seen by the right member of staff we are trying to ensure we streamline our lines of communication. Going forward, all messages in regards to absence, lateness and changes of who is picking up your child are left with the office. **Please do not use Dojo to inform class teachers of lateness, absence or changes in arrangements for pick ups.** When necessary, and in relation to the child's learning and education, messages may be sent to teachers / parents via dojo.

Absence/ Lateness

If your child is absent or late please either phone the school office or use the website tool to report this. If there are changes in arrangements for pick ups please inform Mrs Moss by 13:15. If there are any **emergency changes**, please leave a voicemail message by 15:00. This will then be picked up before dismissal.

Uniform

Please see the website for details on uniforms [here](#).

When the children return, they will have new named peg spaces. We are trying to keep the areas uncluttered and tidy. On PE days children can come to school in PE kits so no additional bags are needed. KS1 will need their coats and bookbags and KS2 a coat and small school bag. On Forest School days, please can children bring in their change of clothes in a bag.

Stationery (Years 3 to 6)

Your child *can* bring with them to school their own pencil case. This should include a **blue pen (not biro), pencil, ruler, rubber, purple pen and red pen**. They are welcome to supplement this with crayons etc if they wish. We have stationery in school but feel this promotes independence and responsibility in our children. **If equipment can be labelled it will really help**. Please also note that the children's drawers are not overly deep so large pencil cases are not really appropriate. Reception and Key stage 1 resources will be provided.

PE Days

Please note which days your class will be having PE this year. These will be available on the school website [calendar](#) also as a reminder. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit for the academic year. More information can be found [here](#). ***Children should come to school in their PE kits on these days.***

Class 1	Thursday
Class 2	Thursday
Class 3	Thursday

Forest school

Forest school will be up and running from Week 2. Please take a look at the website for information on what to wear [here](#). As with all uniforms it is so important that all items are labelled.

Class 1	Tuesday
Class 2	Friday
Class 3	Thursday

Homework

Homework this year will be very streamlined and based around the key learning skills of reading. Key stage 1 children will have a weekly spelling test on a Monday. Spellings will be available on the Class pages of the website under the 'Children' section. Please help your child learn their spellings each week, the meaning of the words, how to use them in sentences and how to write them neatly. Try to have fun learning them. Some useful ideas can be found below:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/teachers-tricks-make-spelling-easy>

Key Stage 2 will not be having spellings sent home this term. There will be more information on Class pages soon as we change our approach to spellings to best support our children and families.

We would like each child to again attempt to complete our 5 Times a Reader challenge. Reading is the foundation for everything. It allows our children to access the wider curriculum, learn vocabulary to improve their writing and to interact with others in their discussion of the books. No matter how high their reading ability is we would like parents to try to read with their children, discussing the text and questioning their understanding. Please make comments in their reading diaries and sign them each week. Some useful information on how to best support your child can be found on this link:

https://www.pearson.com/content/dam/one-dot-com/one-dot-com/uk/documents/Learner/Primary/Primary%20parents/Pearson_EnjoyReading_03.pdf

In order to monitor how often your child is reading we would like them, and yourselves, to continue to use their reading diaries.

We would like each page of the diary to represent one week (see example). Within these 5 times a week we would like at least two of the reading sessions to take place with an adult. This will allow your child to discuss and understand the text more and practise reading aloud.



If we can focus on these key skills all other areas of their education will see the benefits.

This year each child will have a levelled reading book and also have a Reading Challenge text. We believe that it is important to encourage everyone to develop a 'Life-long Love of *Reading*'. On our website you will find a list of *Recommended Reads* for each year group. The books have been carefully selected to offer challenge, to experience other cultures and traditions and to provide deeper thinking to our children in terms of topical issues. Challenge your child to read them all over the year? They might even find their new favourite author or discover their *all-time* favourite book!

We will track the children as they read these books and progress towards completing the 50 book challenge. Please read these books with your child, hearing them read or reading to them so they can be immersed in the stories.

We cannot wait to welcome you all back and start this next academic year. Thank you in advance for your support and we cannot wait to see you all on Monday.

Trim Trail

We are so excited for the children to see and use the new Trim Trail. Due to insurance and liability, we please ask that the trim trail not be used at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support with this.

Yours Sincerely

The Staff of The Howard Primary School